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THE ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

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College road worth the cost, reeve says

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

Although the new road leading to the new Sir Sandford Fleming College campus cost almost twice as much as first expected, Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey believes the investment will pay dividends in the future.

As part of its commitment to the project, the municipality spent \$500,000 on the roughly 1.6 km road which cuts through the forest between the Industrial Park Road and Glebe Park.

Without the municipality's commitment to provide the serviced land for the campus, Fearrey says the province wouldn't have provided the bulk of funding and the municipality would have lost an opportunity to promote and enhance the area.

Originally, Dysart thought the road would cost \$200,000 to \$300,000.

The additional costs weren't anticipated until construction of the road began.

"We had nearly solid rock with the whole roadbed," Fearrey said in an interview with *The Echo*. "To get the grades that were acceptable, we had to blast not just the roadbed, but also the ditches."

"The over-run was absolutely the rock."

Dysart has paid for the road

See **Reserve** page 5



DARREN LUM/Echo

Here comes Santa Claus

The excitement reached a crescendo on the streets of Wilberforce when Santa's sleigh was spotted during Sunday afternoon's parade. Children followed Santa into the community centre where he gave each of them a wonderful present. We have coverage throughout this week's *Echo*.

Assessment backlog reaches 900

SHERYL LOUCKS

Staff Reporter

The list of building permits in Dysart et al which have not been followed up by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation has reached the staggering number of 900.

"The next one [assessment agenda item]] just makes me sick," Reeve Murray Fearrey said at last week's council meeting.

He added council has been lobbying MPAC for the last four years about the backlog while

the problem continues to grow. Fearrey says constituents have been giving him a lot of flack about the lack of assessment for new construction and problems in the system. He has also been asked to issue an interim tax bill for those properties but Dysart staff cannot do that without an assessment notice.

"People who have not received their tax bill should know something is wrong," Deputy-reeve Bill Davis said, commenting on the public misconception about taxes.

Councillor Jerry Walker said

that the only thing people see is Dysart's name on the top of the bill and the number they owe at the bottom and they do not give much consideration how that number was arrived at.

Fearrey says the tax base should be growing and taxes dropping but instead the opposite is happening because of backlog at MPAC, a corporation funded by municipalities to collect assessment information. Grumblings around the council table this month were that Dysart is not getting its money's worth out of MPAC.

Davis says he would rather the municipality hire someone to get the assessments updated to clear the backlog and then submit the numbers to MPAC but others at the table argued there is no way the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, which represents MPAC, would allow it.

Since the most valuable properties and homes tend to be on the waterfront, those owners are seeing the highest hikes. Under the current taxation they are carrying most of the tax load

See **Headline name** page 2

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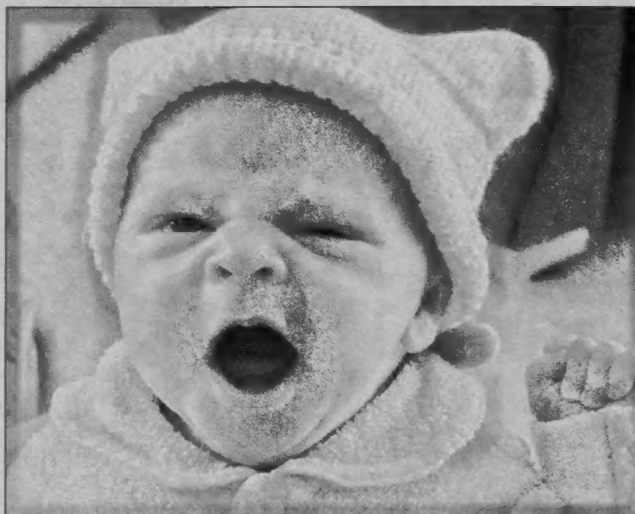
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Former Haliburtonian earns Queen's medal

MANY HALIBURTONIANS will remember Graham Neville who is now an RCMP constable based in Edmonton. A few weeks ago, he was presented with Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal for those Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or Canada. Neville was honoured for being instrumental in the formation of the first RCMP pipe band, of which he is pipe major. The band performs throughout Alberta and other provinces and has also represented Canada overseas. He is the brother of Bryan Neville, Christine Bailey and Margaret Scheffee. *The Echo* would love to hear about other Highlanders who have

here, there & everywhere
news and events worth noting



Isn't he adorable!? Introducing Sam Springett, the six-week old son of former *Echo* reporter Jody Lindbeck and her husband Grahame. The incredibly happy family lives near Canberra, Australia.

received the award. Call Martha Perkins at 457-1037.

We won't give away any secrets, but it seems quite a few Christmas trees will be graced with a copy of Steve Galea's *My Outdoors* book under their boughs. If you missed the book-signing by *The Echo's* favourite humour columnist last week, don't despair. Copies of the collection of outdoor humour pieces are available at Master's Books, Under Cover Books, Outdoors Plus and *The Echo*.

If you want to read a heart-warming story, then pick up this month's edition of *Canadian Living*. Syd Birrell, recounts the phenomenal support his family got from thousands of strangers when his eight-year-old son James was dying from a rare form of cancer. "I began sending e-mail updates when James relapsed," Syd writes. "I had no idea that toward the end of his life, nearly 100,000 people would be scanning their inboxes for a James update." Here in the Highlands, many people read about the family's struggles because Syd's parents, Bruce and Primrose Birrell of Soyers Lake, would forward Syd's poignant stories of the family's triumphs and struggles. Find out more at www.JamesBirrell.ca

Eagle Lake is hosting its Christmas celebration for children on December 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. at the community church. There will be carol singing and a Christmas story followed by supper for the children. The Eagle Lake Women's Association is providing the gifts and help.

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Dysart et al briefs

Head Lake trail gets green light

SHERYL LOUCKS

Staff Reporter

The following is a collection of brief reports from the December 9 meeting of Dysart et al council.

Head Lake Trail has been chosen as the trail projected to be submitted to Haliburton Highlands Trails and Tours for trail development funding and work.

Council received a letter from Barrie Martin, Trails and Tours president, explaining that he is confident the organization will receive OSTAR funding of \$516,000 and has received \$307,000 from the Living Legacy program for a project called Hike Haliburton.

Martin requested council to submit a written expression of interest, indicating a trail project they would like to have funded.

Reeve Murray Fearrey suggested Head Lake Trail while Deputy-reeve Bill Davis said he did not see how they could submit it as a trail when roads intersect it. The rest of council agreed with Fearrey.

Councillor Jerry Walker said he would not have a problem in giving Trails and Tours money to support the project since the government funding requires the organization to raise matching dollars.

Council also agreed to support Trails and Tours in an initiative to have people recycle old cars with a small portion of the proceeds being donated to Trails and Tours.

New light?

A discussion on improving the safety of the heavily travelled corner of County Road 1 and 121 near Haliburton Highlands Secondary School included putting up traffic lights and changing the grade of the road.

Fearrey says the results from a survey paid for by Haliburton County show there could be room at the corner for a right-hand turn lane but there could be a problem with the property on the corner.

He says the county is considering putting in a traffic light because of the heavy use of that corner at the beginning and end of the school day.

There has also been discussion of traffic lights instead at the entrance of HHSS near the train.

Davis says the lights might help but the real issue is the way the bottom portion of County Road 1 before the stop signs becomes a sheet of ice causing people to slide through the intersection.

Fearrey says there is some discussion at the county of the logistics of taking off the top of the hill and changing the grade of the road so it is less of a slope, giving people a better chance at stopping.

Doctor incentives

Dysart council has chosen to support a petition by the City of St. Catharines to lobby the provincial government to disallow communities from engaging in the practice of providing financial incentives to lure medical professionals.

"I don't have a problem with it, but I wish you the best of luck," said Davis.

Fearrey says the petition is right in that the Ontario Municipal Act does not allow municipalities "bonusing" or giving financial incentives to lure commercial interests and so should not be allowed to do it for doctors or other medical professionals. Fearrey says allowing communities to use a bonus

system creates unfair competition and, that a richer population base could attract more health professionals than they really need while others suffer without - a two-tier type of health care.

"Maybe if enough politicians hear about it, the practice (of offering health professionals medical incentives) will be stopped," says Fearrey.

Davis argued there already is a two-tier health system in the county anyway with doctors being paid \$30 more an hour to work out of Minden than Haliburton.

Septage dumping

Council has been advised by American

Water Services Canada Corp that septage discharge into the municipal sewage system can resume at pumping station 11 or 9.

Davis says that since the people who pay to be hooked up to the sewage system have seen two rate increases, the septage dumping rate should also be increased. Councillors agreed and a new rate was set at five cents a gallon.

Walker insisted the septage not be dumped at the Kashaga Drive pumping station and also suggested that a receiving area for the septage be created when the new Sir Sandford Fleming College site is constructed. Both proposals were agreed to as good ideas.



DARREN LUM/Echo



A glorious Cantata

St. George's Anglican Church was alive with the sounds of Christmas on Thursday, Dec. 12. The church held its annual cantata, 'A Christmas Festival of Readings and Carols'. It was an interactive event, allowing the audience to sing carols such as Gentle Mary Laid Her Child and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen with the choir, led by Bill Gliddon. Readings such as The Innkeeper and The Angel were performed by locals. The cantata concluded with the singing of We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Virus also closes Highland Wood to visitors

Several residents at Highland Wood long-term care facility are experiencing the symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhea associated with the Norwalk-like virus illness. The facility was closed to visitors last Tuesday evening.

Melinda O'Mara, director of care, consulted with representatives from HKPR

District Health Unit and the Ministry of Health.

O'Mara says that "symptoms were recognized early and appropriate measures were taken."

Robin Anthony, HHHS infection control practitioner, commended the staff for its diligent care in managing this situa-

tion. Prevention and control measures and additional precautions have been implemented.

Several staff members are also exhibiting similar symptoms.

Highland Wood will remain closed to visitors until all residents are symptom free.

As of Thursday, December 12, the Haliburton Hospital acute care department, and the Minden site of HHHS, including Hyland Crest, remains unaffected.

For further information, contact Robin Anthony at 705-457-1392 Ext. 283.

School board supports alternative diploma

by KRISTAN JONES

Special to The Echo

Trillium Lakelands District School Board trustees have voted in favour of an alternative diploma for those students who do not pass the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).

After the release of OSSLT results last year and again in October, it was found that there might be a high number of students, particularly males in applied courses, who may not graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Passing the literacy test is a graduation requirement.

The resolution passed by trustees at last week's school board meeting supports Education Minister Elizabeth Witmer's plan for an alternative diploma.

TLDSB trustee Bob Orr told trustees they must make sure the alternative diploma has credibility and validity with employers.

"This shouldn't be second best," said Orr.

A staff report explained that without the alternative diploma, the skilled-trades would continue to see a decline in job candidates.

The report stated that students interested in pursuing an apprenticeship require an OSSD in almost all cases. If students are unable to pass the literacy test, earn a diploma and enter a skilled trade, there will likely be an even greater shortage of skilled trade workers in the future, school officials predict.

"This is about having a real achievable goal for students who might not pass the literacy test," said Sonja Vandermeer, educational services coordinator for TLDSB.

She added that having an alternative diploma is more motivation to finish high school.

"There are very few employers who are interested in hiring people without a high school diploma."



School enhancement programs approved

During the spring budget deliberations for 2002-03, trustees from Trillium Lakelands DSB earmarked \$100,000 to support innovative education programs throughout the system. Trustees called upon staff to submit ideas, apply for funding, and show how their initiatives would make a difference for students.

After reading the proposals and hearing almost 30 presentations, trustees selected 24 programs to receive funding.

Trustees received an excellent response to their call for innovation, with 66 eager applicants coming forward with proposals.

Applications not successful for funding may find another life through the program department.

Successful local programs were:

Secondary Schools: Music Computer \$21,955.

Haliburton Highlands SS Model United Nations Program \$2,500.

Haliburton Highlands SS French Theatre \$1,300.

Haliburton Highlands SS Core French Festival \$2,000.

Teacher-Librarians: Increased School Literacy \$5,000

All schools: Robotics Challenge \$8,000.

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Good enough for Santa

SBES student Tyler Barry looks for approval from school volunteer Rena Woodley while making gingerbread cookies. Tyler was one many students participating in a week-long series of Christmas activities at the Haliburton school last week.



from:

Laura Mawbey, Doug Olliffe, Sue Trepanier, Claudette O'Neill, Cheryl Lee, Allen Burns, Susan Lindsey, Byron Woodman, Celeste Butz, Charlene Jenkinson, Jackie Edwards, Fred Mawbey, Daniel Jung, Jamie Timbers, Adam Hutson, Benton Brown, Rebecca Ide, Jillian Brown, Lindsay Mitchell, Nicole Grove, Raymond Langdon, Andre Austin



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Reserves for road soon topped up

from page 1

using existing reserves.

"Dysart is fortunate in that it has two reserve funds that we work to taxpayers' advantage," Fearrey says.

Fearrey says that when he joined council in the 1970s, the largest reserve was \$70,000. By January 1, 2002, it had reached \$2,242,000. It now stands at \$2,132,000 with the road work paid for.

Some of the money was taken from the second, smaller reserve fund. At the beginning of the year, it had \$901,000. Now it has \$756,000.

"By the end of next year, we'll have recovered all the money," he says. "It's really had little impact on the reserves."

"It's not magic. It's done because of investments and a few fortunate land sales."

The municipality gets money for the reserves through various non-tax initiatives. For instance, with new developments it receives five per cent of the value of the land or, in some cases, one of the lots. It sells the lot and puts the money into the reserve fund.

Dysart then uses the reserve as its own private bank, borrowing from itself. (It will buy a gravel pit and sell the gravel to its roads department.) Fearrey says it's been at least a decade since the municipality had to borrow from a bank.

The \$500,000 spent on the road includes \$50,000 the municipality spent on land for either the roadway or to compensate for the parkland that was given to the college. One parcel of land is 100 acres.

"There was a lot of concern we were taking acreage around Glebe. While we took the road we wanted to make sure we had good access to the road for public use. We also wanted to protect future development around the landfill," Fearrey says of council's decision to buy the land.

The land for the road cost \$25,000. The 100 acres also cost \$25,000.

Fearrey says two other options were considered for the roadway.

One was to come in off Hwy 118 just north of the Harburn Road. A large hill made that option too costly. It would have also destroyed the main ski trails.

Another option was to improve and widen Bayshore Acres off Hwy 118, but landowners in the residential neighbourhood were vehemently opposed to having approximately 400 cars a day pass by.

Fearrey says, "There will always be people who second guess how you do things. I heard we shouldn't have backed off Bayshore Acres. But think about 400 to 500 cars a day going by a residential area. What we're here to do is represent most people and council thinks most people will benefit [by the route council decided to take]."

No engineer was hired to do the road because that would have added \$50,000. Instead, a surveyor was hired to mark the road's path which was partly determined by consideration for neighbouring landowners. Lee Blair, who has decades of experience building roads, was hired to oversee the project. It was Blair who decided to change the course of the road inside the park. He didn't want a curve on the incline.

However, because he changed the road's path, it also changed drainage patterns so the college had to undertake a second drainage survey, which partly delayed the project.

Fearrey says regardless of the path of the road, the college's architect would have had to make changes.

"The architect drew the building where it wasn't suitable," he says.

He sees the extra cost as being comparable with the municipality's need to buy land next to the Haliburton Hospital to allow for the construction of the new long-term care unit.

"I've been involved in a lot of public contracts and I've never seen one yet that went according to plan," Fearrey says. "There are always new ideas. Do you make it right now even though it will cost a little more and take more time? I think you should."

Dealing with the incline called for a few compromises, too. Since blasting had already added so much to the project, the municipality decided to keep to an eight per cent grade rather than blast it down.

"No grade is greater than 10 per cent,"

Fearrey says, noting that Dover's Hill is 11 per cent.

Dysart also made the road wide enough to accommodate hikers and bicyclists.

Trails are very important to council, Fearrey added. Al McPherson, who's retiring as co-ordinator of the college's eco-tourism program, has been hired to come up with a trail plan for the park.

"We see the college as an opportunity to enhance the whole area, and the college is very supportive of public use [of the land]."

At the same time, Dysart also heard concerns from cross country skiers who were upset at damage done to the trails during a logging operation at Glebe Park.

"We were criticized last year, and rightly so, for not leaving the trails in as good shape as we found them," Fearrey says. "This year we worked with the logger and did some remedial work."

The work cost \$1,500 and has been well received by the ski clubs, he says. "It worked out for everyone."

As to criticism that the municipality laid off three roads workers because of the cost over-runs, Fearrey says the two things have nothing to do with one another. He says that, in two previous contract negotiations, Dysart tried to get the roads department to agree to one-man snowplow crews. Until this winter, when a new contract was signed, Dysart has had two men per plow.

When the municipality agreed to increase wages to make them more in line with county employees', the roads department agreed to implement the county's policy of one-man plows. That led to the lay offs.

"It's a matter of equal work for equal money," Fearrey said. "There's absolutely no truth that anyone was laid off because of the college road. The money doesn't even come out of the same pot."

While Fearrey doesn't like the fact that the road work cost more than expected, he has no regrets. "Naysayers say 'Let the college do it on their own.' But they couldn't have done it. It would have been very easy to close the campus. I think council took a positive stand. I doubt people will say it was a stupid move 10 years from now."

Sewer line may extend to college's neighbours

MARTHA PERKINS

Editor

As part of its commitment to provide serviced land to Sir Sandford Fleming College for its new campus in Glebe Park, Dysart et al has also agreed to extend the sewer line to the site.

That will cost an additional \$350,000.

"[The extension] is being sized to also accommodate future use of all of Halbiem estates and Bayshore Acres and if need be, Harmony Road," says Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey.

Council has approached the property owners at Halbiem to see if they are interested in hooking on to the line.

However, since most of the homes are new and owners have invested in private septic systems, property owners may not want to agree to the \$25,000 hook-up charge on the user-pay extension.

The one-time cost is high because, unlike the North Kashagawigamog sewer extension, no provincial subsidy is available at this time. Dysart received 80 per cent funding for the Kashagawigamog extension from the province.

Bayshore Acres property owners have not yet been approached, Fearrey says.

The municipality wants more users. The new plant was expanded to accommodate a greater flow, which it needs to run efficiently.

"We desperately need to be able to increase the flow on the lines," Fearrey says.

Some of the costs for the extension will be recouped through usage fees.

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A walk in the park

One of the best things about *The Echo* office is the view it gives us of Head Lake. We can see the lake for the true asset it is. And instead of just looking at the lake, quite a few of us like to walk along its shores. There are those who prefer the boardwalk for leisurely strolls with friends or dogs and others who go the distance, circumnavigating the entire lake as an alternative to eating too many Christmas goodies for lunch. We use the park as one of our favourite backdrops for photographs, although few of us have ever dared to tip toe through the goose droppings in order to have a picnic or friendly game of disc golf there.

echo

editorial

— martha perkins

just its pretty face.

With the increased interest in keeping fit as a way of staying healthy, Head Lake is positioned to become a popular recreational destination. Centrally located, easy to get to with plenty of free parking, the lake can be a mecca for walkers, bikers and runners.

Speaking as one of the converted, (and actually a full-blown walk-around-Head Lake enthusiast), the round-the-lake route is almost perfect. Going clockwise, there are only two trouble spots when it comes to safety. One is between the high school and either Halbiem Crescent or Industrial Park Road (depending on which route you take to get to Glebe Park) and the other is from Bayshore Acres Road and the driveway to Sir Sandford Fleming College. On those two stretches you have to walk on the shoulder of the busy roadway and when it comes to the latter, you can hardly even call it a shoulder. A baby finger, maybe.

Dysart et al council recently agreed to ask for its share of Trails and Tours funding to be spent on creating a safer trail around the lake. What a far-sighted decision. Apparently some councillors argued that the lake walk is not really a trail but all they need to do is follow someone for the circuitous five-kilometre route and they'll be amazed to discover how many people they'll meet. As a recreation destination its perfect in many ways, especially its manageable length and the fact that you never have to double back on your tracks.

A committee has already been working on the trail and several ideas have already been discussed. When those few problem areas get cleared up, Haliburton will be the envy of many. The village will be a lot healthier for it, both financially and in terms of its residents' health.

Dumb and dumber

Speaking of the view of the lake, we actually get to see a lot of stupid things happen, too. Take the young teenagers who on Friday ventured out onto the ice to see how far they could get to the open water, bouncing up and down at the ice's edge to thoroughly test their stupidity.

It's one thing for them to willingly risk a cold swim, another to expect our volunteer firefighters to do the same thing if they ever are called out to get someone out of the chilly water.



Evening comes to Head Lake Park

photo by DARREN LUM/Echo

A tradition of sharing

A TV walk through the White House with the American first family and Barbara Walters at Christmas time shows exquisitely decorated, theme and colour co-ordinated rooms. Such is the White House tradition. For many years, home magazines and public places have bombarded us with these kinds of images of Christmas decoration perfection.

I once dreamed of having such a Christmas tree decorated with artistry - my own obviously - not higgledy-piggledy with everyone joining in as had been our family's tradition. I got my chance when we first moved into a house of our very own. We all went to buy our big tree and, as well, I bought four tiny artificial trees. Each of us would be in charge of one aspect of the decorating preparation: for Bill the outdoor lights, for each of the kids a tiny tree, and for me, aha, the big tree.

Each child had a chosen location. The only rule was that nobody could interfere with another's artistry. After all I did not want any input into what would be my masterpiece and I was, thus, free to decorate the big tree to fit my personal idea of perfection. Not only could I do this but it would be seen by all our new neighbours whom we had invited to a Christmas party.

I bargained without our youngest one's unique artistic sensibilities and her typical two year old's sense of independence. No one was permitted to help her and no one could even enter her room to see what she was creating. Her's had previously been chosen by all to be the tiny tree in the front hall, there to greet the guests on arrival and to be the last image they would have on leaving. She presented her mas-

terpiece just before the party began.

What decorative abilities she displayed! Her tree was covered in strips of toilet paper on which were stuck various seals, any at hand, not necessarily appropriate to the season. My beautifully decorated tree went nearly unnoticed by our guests. Her's was not only the hit of the evening but also the family hit of the season. Years later it still remains in memory. Nobody, including me, remembers what my intricate

interplay between the lights and ornaments was meant to convey. No one even remembers my artistry!

That was my one and only attempt to turn our Christmas tree decorations into my fashion statement. I began to sense that at the heart of our Christmas traditions, be it decorating the tree or preparing the feast, or singing the carols, participation is the key.

Christmas festivities with burnt gravy, off key harmonizing, higgledy-piggledy decorated trees,

rambunctious children will long be remembered for the warmth vibrating throughout both the

preparations and the celebration. Far more so than if all had been perfect - the dinner superb, the children all comporting themselves with perfect manners, the tree shining with elegant symmetry, the carolling intricate and pitch perfect. We may aim for such

perfection but the cost may be the chipping away of a tradition that is at the heart of the Christmas celebration - that of sharing.

Whereas the Grinch learned that perhaps Christmas does not come from a store, that perhaps Christmas means just a little bit more, I began to learn that year that perhaps Christmas is not about perfection galore, that perhaps Christmas means just a little bit more.



marion hare

perspectives

Her tree was covered in strips of toilet paper on which were stuck various seals, any at hand, not necessarily appropriate for the season. My beautifully decorated tree went nearly unnoticed by our guests. Her's was not only the hit of the evening but also the family hit of the season. Years later it still remains in memory.

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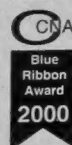
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A sense of community

Kenny Noble of Wilberforce, who I'm sure everyone would agree is an absolutely sage and decent man, once told me that the difference between a small town and a big city lies in the sense of community. Having lived in both types of places, I know that Kenny is right.

That's not intended to put the big city or its people down. I think what Ken meant is that in places where there are fewer people we can all afford to be a little more charitable in the way we deal with those we meet. In other words, here it's easier to look at a person as a person and not just someone you'll never meet again. And because the pace tends to be a little slower, it's not as difficult to get to know or respect those very same folks. The results of giving your time and self become obvious over

the long run. So too, do the results of burning bridges.

On Sunday, I spent an afternoon in Wilberforce at the Santa Claus parade and kids Christmas party and, once again, it was easy to see the deep-rooted wisdom in Kenny's observation.

In truth, I've seen rush hour traffic jams in Toronto with more and stranger-looking vehicles. I mean, the whole little parade looked as if Red Green met the Ghost of Christmas Past. But that simplicity and homespun effort contained the

tales from



steve
galea

vinegar hill

charm and beauty of it all. People made do with what they had and some of the results were excellent. Certainly none were bad. Our own *Echo* van has never looked so beautiful or Christmassy, and not just because staff reporter Sheryl Loucks was driving and sales rep Andrea Hillo was following, handing out our own version of Christmas cheer. No, I'd like to think that I helped too by walking a minimum of 20 steps behind as was suggested by staff photographer Darren Lum. If our van was a horse, I would have been that guy with the shovel and broom. Yet I believe this provided our float with a subtle sense of tradition that will be spoken of for years to come, if they ever make the mistake of asking me back.

The point is, everyone gave straight from the heart, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, and I doubt I've ever seen a parade that said so many really good things about a community. To those wide-eyed kids, those floats looked just as good as anything you'll ever see on TV. Maybe it had something to do with the fact that they know many of the drivers, participants and passengers who were giving out goodies and wishing them a sincere Merry Christmas. Maybe it had more to do with the fact that they knew Santa was just down the road, sitting right outside their very school in fact, riding atop a big shiny fire truck with sirens blaring for a happy reason. Smiles and laughter said it all.

When the parade had ended, everyone gathered inside the community centre where there was good music, food and drink. But, most important, there were kids and Santa and a few teenagers who were moonlighting as elves, which I imagine is good work but seasonal employment at best. Everyone's children and grandchildren stepped up and sat on St. Nick's lap, each one just as cute as the other, although I still think I gave them a run for their money with my dazzling yet unsung parade performance. Hey, when I told Andrea and Sheryl that it was me who put the Ech! in *Echo*, they couldn't help but agree.

But beyond all that, there on the floor of that cheery hall, neighbours gathered and caught up like old friends do. New acquaintances were made, old ones were renewed, and we all got a hint of how lucky we really are to live in a place where everyone still cares this much.

And while all that brought a smile to my face, I also caught a glimpse of the big picture: that being that everyone who entered was welcome and that it took a host of nameless volunteers and donors to make this the success it was. There are events like this going on all through the County — some larger, some smaller.

In the end, all the children were given an enjoyable and memorable day. My daughter Carmen, for instance, was given a kid's electric guitar and a doll that has immediately entered the inner sanctum of all those other ones she possesses. Other kids received equally nice presents but I believe it was the adults who really got the most out of it. After all, if you ask me, a sense of community like that is quite a gift.



pic of the past

This photo, of uncertain date, but at least 70 years ago, shows a group posed on the lawn of what, in the early part of the past century, was known as the Robert Gould property on Lake Kashagawigamog. The photo was taken by Thomas Moon, and may show a wedding party. The property later was transformed into Wigamog Inn. Our thanks to John Wensley for providing this interesting Pic of the Past. As always, we welcome your photo contributions to this space.

letters to the editor

Liberals defend gas tax policy

To the Editor:

I would like to respond to Bill Beatty's letter concerning the proposed allocation of the gasoline tax towards public transit. First, it is not the position of the Ontario Liberal party to use the entire gasoline tax revenue stream for public transit development. Mr. Beatty obviously misunderstood the Liberal position regarding this matter. It is still our intent to allocate a significant portion of this tax towards general revenues. Roads continue to be a major concern for all of us. They will be taken care of via provincial general revenue allotments and your municipal property taxes. We understand that residents of Haliburton rely heavily upon their road system and have no access to public transit. Their way of life needs to be protected and enhanced. It will be.

However, we must understand that our society's addiction to its automobiles is simultaneously affecting our health and our wallets. Last summer, most residents of the Highlands will recall that there were several days of poor air quality. Unlike other years, these air quality problems extended far north of our urban centres. We had air advisories that afflicted residents of Brock Township, the City of Kawartha Lakes and the southern portions of the Highlands.

A Liberal provincial government will take your health concerns seriously. To do this, it needs to encourage a behaviour change in our urban centres. Torontonians, for example, need to start using mass transit more often. We need them to stop using their car for short trips. In short, a Liberal government wants to protect the air that

all of the people from the Highlands breathe.

Last summer, the Ontario Medical Association, released a study stating that poor air quality was costing our Medicare system and our economy \$1.1 billion annually. That works out to \$275 per household in Ontario. Mr. Beatty stated in his letter that it costs \$0.45 per kilometre to operate a car. The math, consequently, tells us that each household is losing out on 600 km worth of car trips due to our air quality problems. That is a lot of trips to the post office, landfill, Cubs, Scouts, Cadets and band practice.

More importantly, the O.M.A. stated that 1,900 premature deaths were being caused by poor air quality each year in Ontario. This is unacceptable. We need strategies that will protect the health and welfare for all of the citizens of Haliburton-Victoria-Brock. The Harris-Eves government has not been able to provide these. The Liberals will.

Poor air quality costs us all. This is not an issue that can be simplistically rationalised at a local level. The Ontario Medical Association is telling us that we all need to breathe better air. The Liberal strategy of promoting mass transit use in our large urban centres will make this happen. Working with concerned citizens such as Mr. Beatty, we will build a better and healthier Ontario.

Richard Christie,
Environment Committee - Jason Ward
Campaign.

MORE LETTERS ON PAGE 10

Boonieville by Charlie Teljeur





Wilberforce parade, an example of community spirit

Story by Sheryl Loucks

Photos by Darren Lum

Regular readers will recognize this as the second installment of parade do's and don'ts by this reporter and no one is more surprised than the writer to discover there is a lot more to learn.

This time around, the parade was in Wilberforce. It may be smaller but the folks of the Loop must be hiding their elf ears under their toques because they have got the most Christmas spirit anywhere south of the North Pole.

After the parade, organized by the cheerfully patient Lynn Waugh, rolled through town everyone ducked into the community centre where a couple of hundred presents were waiting for children along with good ol' Saint Nick, who happens to have a remarkably sturdy knee - he didn't dump a child all afternoon!

Valerie Smith, Santa Fund chairperson, says approximately \$3,000 was donated by local businesses to purchase the presents while an additional two bags of stuffed toys were donated to the fire department to be given away as well. Smith worked with the Pathfinder elves to ensure every child got to take an enchanted walk to Santa's knee, have a photo taken and leave with their gifts.

The Wilberforce Volunteer Fire Fighters completed the walk back to waiting parents with a bag of candy, pop, and a ticket for a hot dog. The whole operation went down smoother than Santa down the chimney. A band kept everyone singing familiar holiday

songs.

If the afternoon could be succinctly described in a single sentence it could be used for a dictionary definition of community.

And as for those parade tips, we left off at tip five before so here are a few more for future reference - Echo staff in particular take note!

Tip number six: when trying to get road slush and salt off your float, hot water alone does not cut it. So, unless you happen to have some Palmolive handy, the best bet is to spray while simultaneously brushing with the brush end of an ice scraper.

Warning: as Steve Galea pointed out, this particular exercise can result in a frozen t-shirt contest.

Tip number seven: have a float design plan before you arrive at the parade gathering spot, particularly if you happen to have a humour columnist (Galea) as part of the decorating crew aided or abetted by a certain blond (Andrea Hillo).

Tip number eight: when driving the float on snowy, slippery roads, either insist there is not a child pushing a stroller complete with real baby ahead of you for the length of the parade whilst you are operating a vehicle that does not have stop-on-a-dime capabilities. Otherwise, have the nitro on hand for impending heart attacks.

Tip number nine: do not attach bells to windshield wiper blades when driver does not know how to turn the wipers off!





The Wilberforce Christmas parade and party was a large crowd pleaser on Sunday, Dec. 14. More than 200 children went home with two gifts after being given a bag of candy, hotdog and pop. Local Wilberforce businesses donated the \$3,000 for the purchase of the gifts.

Inside the Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre, Santa Claus and local musicians led the audience in Christmas carols. Children sat on Santa's knee, telling him what they wanted for Christmas. Thanks go to Valerie Smith who purchased the gifts.



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Political correctness belittles traditions

To the Editor:

Some thoughts at Christmas

First, as an agnostic, I cannot be accused of having a religious motivation for what I am about to say. Second, my concept of being politically correct, is not telling the truth, in case you offend someone. Third my concept of tradition, is the pride in ones past, as in Fiddler On The Roof.

Recently, it seems, that in Toronto and Kingston you dare not say the word Christmas. That followed by the gaff at the Gap. Then there was that hospital in Quebec, next came Chicago, and then the West Edmonton Mall. Frankly I consider this affront to my tradition, which emotes warm feelings of Christmas in a simpler time, when I was much younger, and of Church and Santa etc. The traditional Christ in Christmas thing.

The problem with political correctness is that politicians and media fall all over themselves promoting the beliefs of our diverse minorities, while denying the tradition of our founding majorities. It seems that suddenly we are ashamed of our past, and our traditions. No other country that I am aware of, would constantly redesign itself to be free of tradition. Newcomers should retain and be proud of their diversity, but also realize the relevance, of the traditions of their new home. After all they seem to be proud of their traditions, and so should we! Merry Christmas!

Keith W. Stata
Kinmount

Assessments now more reasonable

To the Editor:

Thank you for the articles in the November 26 Echo and the December 9 Times about assessment. They were very informative and clearly explained my concern about the huge jumps in the assessed values of our properties in this area.

As an update, this week, all of those people whose figures I was discussing in the article, including myself, received an amended assessment, which is much more reasonable.

There was no explanation as to the amendment, so we do not know whether it was because we all applied for reconsideration, or because there was a grem-

lin in the system which over-assessed us, or whether it was due to your article bringing the injustice to someone's attention.

Whichever it was, thank you for writing about it.

Judy Neimann
Drag Lake

Liberal leader should alter his focus to include realities of life in rural areas

To the Editor:

In response to Bill Beatty's letter about a gas tax.

Without a car I'm lost. We also pay more for gasoline than the urban people do. I'm sure the gas tax that was meant for the roads, have long been lost in the government shuffle.

It seems the urban dweller gets all the advantages. It may be that there are more voters at election time in the urban areas than in the country.

There's a strong attraction for the urban dweller to head for this county. I must say strongly to Dalton McGuinty that if he wants to be leader of the Liberal party I would think he should have a good and honest look at the riding and this county and direct a few good favours here.

If he wants clean air by removing many old cars from the road, well Dalton McGuinty supply bus services for those

who can not afford to buy better cars?

Ed Stukus,
Gooderham

Decision to make Kozy smoke free applauded by local physicians

To the Editor:

Kozy Korner goes smoke free!!

Congratulations to Janet Tice and her staff for deciding to go "smoke free" on January 1st, 2003 thus joining The Old Country House, Mingles, Highland Restaurant and Subway. We applaud your decision free of any municipal legislation.

The negative impact of smoking on health and quality of life is well known. The cost to society, in health care dollars, is huge.

We challenge all other restaurants to join in.

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FROM KIM, MIKE & STAFF

A Note of Thanks

to Our Customers

When we think of all the faces we've come to know in the past few years it gladdens our hearts and gives us much to celebrate this Christmas.

So to all of you, who have given us so much joy, we offer our gratitude and best wishes for a very merry season.

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St. John's, Irondale	7:00 pm	Family Christmas Service
St. James', Kinmount	9:00 pm	Family Christmas Communion

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Be an angel

Haliburton Highland Rangers Amanda Lawlor, Amelia Ambridge and Val Muike recently set up this Angel tree in the Haliburton CIBC. On each angel is the age and gender of a child and the public is asked to pick an angel and purchase a toy to be dropped off with the tag at the CIBC unwrapped. The rangers will coordinate to ensure the gifts are delivered to the 4C's of Haliburton to be delivered to families in need. Toys need to be dropped off by noon December 18, please.

SHERYL LOUCKS/Echo



Angel's Spa polishes its halo

SHERYL LOUCKS

Staff Reporter

A group of expecting or new mothers will be receiving a lovely present this Christmas thanks to a donation from Angel's Spa.

Pamela Vanmeer found that after opening the new spa at the Delta Pinestone she had a large amount of stock left over from her former business. She decided that rather than try to sell it she would donate approximately \$1,200 worth of foot soaks, lotions, face masks and other skin and body care products.

"I called Family Services and they suggested I contact SIRCH," says Vanmeer.

Linda Mintz, SIRCH's Bright Starts co-ordinator, says they have an unprecedented number of families, 15, in the Special Delivery Club for women who are pregnant

or post-natal up to six months.

She says that when she first chatted with Vanmeer she thought they were getting small sample sizes of items, not entire jars and bottles.

"It's wonderful. The women are really going to appreciate this," says Mintz.

Vanmeer says she hopes the donation will inspire other businesses to contribute to the community over the holiday season.

"Being a good mom is very important to the overall development of our most precious resource, our children. And to that end I feel it is very important that moms receive support and nurturing themselves," says Vanmeer.

"The gift of a home spa kit will give them some much-needed pampering and relaxation. These are things that struggling moms won't always buy because their children come first."

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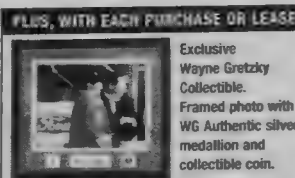
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The Highland Storm Midget A team strung together three wins. See story on page 15.

HHSS come back falls short

HHSS 3 FFSS 4

The Red Hawks' discipline and strong goaltending weren't enough for a comeback against the Fenelon Falls Falcons last week at home.

HHSS couldn't capitalize on Falcon infractions, scoring twice on nearly 12 power plays.

Even with timely saves from Andrew Sachs, the Red Hawks provided too many odd man and breakaway opportunities to the Falcons.

Sachs faced five breakaways and stopped them all, but faced too many in close second and third shots throughout the game to prevent the Falcons from scoring four goals. He turned away 23 of 27 shots.

In the opening minutes, Jeremy Miscio opened the scoring with a one-timer in the slot from Evan Kernohan parked behind the net.

The Red Hawks' goal seemed to jump start the Falcons who strung together three unanswered goals in the first and second periods.

Their first goal came on the power play at 10:05 in the first period. After HHSS goalie Andrew Sachs made a butterfly save off a Falcons' shot in the slot, the puck squirted through his pads and sat behind him. The loose puck was shot in to tie things up 1-1.

Barely a minute later, the Falcons

struck again when an unmarked player got off a clean shot in the slot.

At 7:03 of the first period, a thunderous hit by a Falcon player put a Red Hawks defenseman through the glass in the HHSS defensive zone. The glass was left on the walkway intact and the game was suspended for five minutes to re-install the glass. The Falcon player received a match penalty.

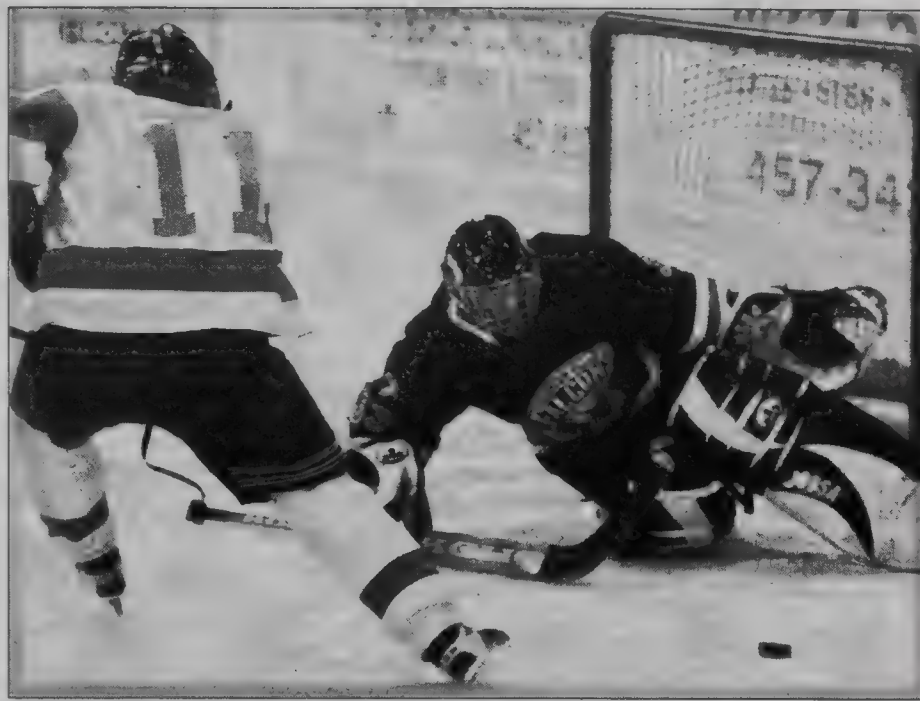
On the ensuing power-play, Miscio had a good chance to tie when he shot a screaming wrist shot that was destined for the top part of the net. The Falcon goalie got enough of the shot with his trapper to send it harmlessly to the left corner.

With 53 seconds left on the power play and less than two minutes in the period, the Red Hawks gave up a short-handed goal that took the Red Hawks out of the game.

Finishing the period, the Red Hawks gave the puck away three times, twice in the defensive zone, with neither resulting in goals.

The Red Hawks turned it up and used their speed and long range passing to break the forecheck in the third period. Miscio and Adam Hutson, combined, added two more goals in the final frame to make it a one goal game. The Red Hawks outshot the Falcons in the third, 10-4.

The best chance to tie came from



DARREN LUM/Echo

Red Hawks Joel Johnson cuts in and gets stopped in close by the Falcons keeper.

Brandon Logan who had his stick lifted in the slot, directly in front of the Falcons' keeper, preventing a shot.

With 34 seconds left in the game, Sachs was pulled and the Red Hawks got the extra attacker on the ice. None of the Red Hawks could manage any shots, but Miscio did get away a low shot that just missed. The loose puck near the net was cleared by the Falcons goalie who dove out and poked it clear of danger.

Miscio led all scorers with two goals

while Adam Hutson added a goal and an assist in the loss.

Joel Cooper, sidelined with a shoulder injury, expects to return to the lineup this week despite coach Ron Yake's reservations.

Against the Falcons, the Red Hawks have tied one and lost two games, both by one goal. With the loss, the Red Hawks' record falls to 3-4-1. Their next game is on the road against St. Thomas Aquinas on Dec. 16.

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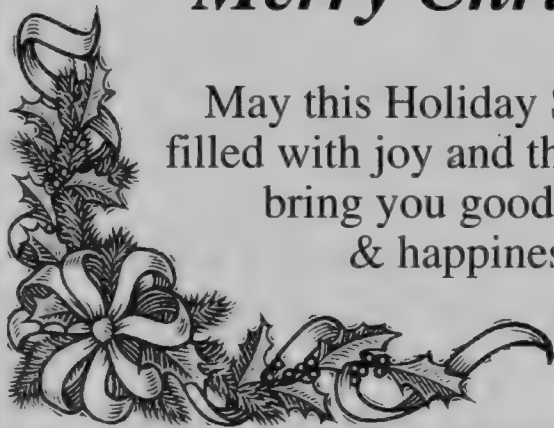
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John F. O'Reilly, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence



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Wrestlers strike gold

Ashley Cameron, Kira Fry, and Melanie Howitt earned gold medals in their respective weight classes at the Kenner Wrestling Tournament in Peterborough on Wednesday, Dec. 4. More than 300 wrestlers competed at the event.

Coach Paul Klose said, "The Red Hawks wrestling team continues to show improvement".

Fourth place: Amelia Ambridge, Jeff Griffin
Bronze medalists: Kyle Austin, Oleg Romanov

Silver medalists: Josh Mayhew
Second tournament

The team was led by superb performances from Noelle Johnson and Owen

Schell who earned gold medals at the North Hastings Wrestling Tournament in Bancroft. The girl's team placed fifth in the tournament while the senior boys ranked third among all other teams. Their next tournament is in Port Hope on Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Fourth place: Ted Ecclestone
Bronze medalists: Ashley Cameron, Kira Fry
Silver medalists: Travis Barton, Jeff Griffin, Aaron Ketner, Josh Mayhew, Dan Vanier

Pictured below, front: Ashley Cameron, Noelle Johnson and Owen Schell. back: Jeff Griffin, Travis Barton, Aaron Ketner, Kira Fry, Josh Mayhew. Absent, Ted Ecclestone and Dan Vanier.



CHASE RODLEY/Echo

Bantam AE return with Port Hope tournament 'C' championship

SHARON WALKER

Special to the Echo

An early morning rise and snowy drive to Port Hope our Bantam AE came home with the C final.

With only six teams playing it meant the games were back-to-back, with not much rest in between.

The Storm first faced off against the Bolton Blackhawks in a fast paced game. After missing some good chances, Derek Nesbitt tied the game assisted by Matt Clements.

Blackhawks scored the go-ahead goal to win the game 2-1 with just minutes left to go in the game.

James Roberts had a great skating game and Matt Clements played an excellent defence game.

Second game of the day was against rival Sterling Blues. It was their fifth match and finally the Blues beat the Storm 3-1.

Sherri Walker's slapshot blew by the goalie assisted by Brittany Hicks and Derek Nesbitt. Blues scored minutes later to tie the game. Storm ended up shorthanded with

Ryan Sheffee sick and Devin Hunter with a knee injury. Ian Sachs was between the pipes for this game and played a solid, great game along with Jon Petch with some great hits and Brittany Hicks. Great penalty killing.

Third and final game for the C was against Port Hope. Jim Winn shook things up a little for this game moving Nesbitt forward and Kyle Fry to defence. Taking chances sometimes works out and sometimes not but for this game it seemed to work.

Storm forward Tyler Watson scored assisted by Clements. Seconds later Port Hope tied it up. Nesbitt's wild slapshot gave the Storm the lead but with only less than two minutes on the clock Port Hope tied the game and sent it into a five-minute sudden death overtime.

With overtime still tied 2-2 the game had to go to a shoot out. Five players were picked from each team. Mike Lennox came up perfect at his end.

Storm's shooters all scored, leading them to a 3-2 win. Sherri Walker went home with the MVP of the day.

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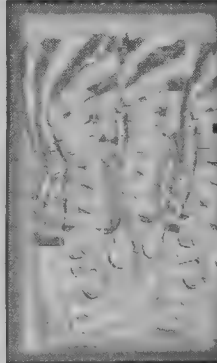
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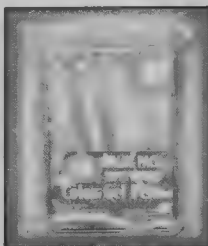
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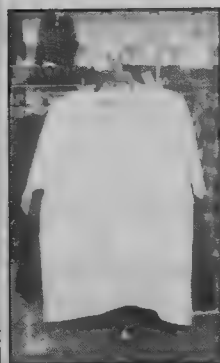
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County league adoption of NHL rules quickens pace

WADE MACINNES

Special to the Echo

Formulating policy mimicking the real NHL's new obstruction rules and hurry up face-offs has the Storm's little NHL playing some wicked hockey games.

Thirty games into the schedule there have been 5 ties, 7 one-goal games, 6 two-goal games and some runaways.

There have been 7 shut-outs thanks to some awesome tending by the senior goalies Dave Lougheed, Matt Vieira, Alex Lopez and Curtis Jennings.

In junior division the expansion "Wild" top the standings with 8 points 4 wins 2 losses and 0 ties. The Blues at 2-1-3 and Wings at 3-2-1 are tied for second spot with 7 points each. The Avalanche hold down third place at 2-2-2 with 6 points. The Sharks with 5 points 2-3-1 are in fourth place and the expansion Canucks 1-4-1 bring up the rear with 3 points.

Canuck coach Bernie Upton says they drafted a young team to build for the future and he is very pleased with the way his team is progressing. The Canuck team's goal is to be in a playoff spot come March.

In the senior division the Bruins are dominating with 10 points and a record of 5 wins, 1 loss, and 0 ties. Those mighty Leafs are nipping at their heels with 7 points, 3-2-1. The Flyers are in 3rd place with 4 points 2-4-0. The Sabres are in the final spot with 3 points 1-4-1.

Sabres coach and GM Gary Nelson vowed to spark up his team with some trade rumours surrounding his top players if they don't start earning their huge salaries. Even though the Sabres are in a bit of a skid their loyal fans still pack the arena cheering the boys on. You gotta love fans who aren't wagon jumpers and support their team win or lose.

The November Junior Molson Cup 4 stars selection for the Avalanche go to Riley Tait, Curtis Ballantyne, Jonah Stonehouse and Tristan Burke. For the Blues Nathan Feir, Thomas Paul, Louis Ferracuti and Matt Kim. For the Red Wings Tyler Stamp, Chris Hall, Kris McDonald and Matt Besner. For the Sharks Liam Wilcox, Darcy Schmidt, Spencer Trueman and Kirk Lopez. For the Wild Mike Nelson, John-Marc Penman, Justin Bailey and Preston Roberts. For the Canucks Taylor

Rowbotham, Devon Upton, Owen Flood and Tyler Higgins.

The Senior Molson Cup 4 star selection for the Bruins goes to Carson Metcalfe, Mitch Hicks, Shane Dibblee and Greg Baumgartner. For the Sabres, Stephen Nelson, Jesse Hamilton, Tanner Warburton and Julian Barry. For the Leafs, Daniel Goodwin, Daniel Langpoul, Mitch Vanderlip and Jordan Roberts. And for the Flyers, Jacob Lang, Riley Sisson, Chris O'Mara and Joe Ferracuti.

Keep up the good work coaches and remember our motto "all for fun and fun for all!"

NOTICE - Game #8 on the county league schedule has been moved from December 28 in Minden to December 21 in Haliburton.

The Highland Storm County League players, parents and coaches would like to take this opportunity to thank a member of this community who has donated his services to Minor Hockey for 40-plus years and we will all miss him dearly.

Thank you, Claude Parish. We wish you all the best in your retirement.

Storm schedule

Dec. 17

- 8:30 p.m. Bantam Rep vs Ops in Minden
- 8:30 p.m. Midget Rep vs Manvers in Haliburton

Dec. 21

- Atom AE Tournament in Minden
- 4 p.m. Atom Rep vs Manvers in Haliburton
- 5:30 p.m. Peewee AE vs Bracebridge in Haliburton
- 7 p.m. Bantam AE vs Prince of Wales in Haliburton
- 8:30 p.m. Midget AE vs Huntsville in Haliburton

Dec. 22

- 4:30 p.m. Bantam Rep vs Huntsville in Minden

Dec. 28

- 1 p.m. Atom AE vs Huntsville in Haliburton
- 2 p.m. Atom Rep vs Mariposa in Minden
- 2:30 p.m. Peewee AE vs Gravenhurst in Haliburton
- 7 p.m. Midget AE vs Gravenhurst in Haliburton

Dec. 29

- 3 p.m. Atom Rep vs Ops in Haliburton



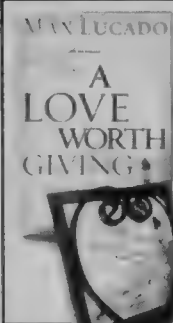
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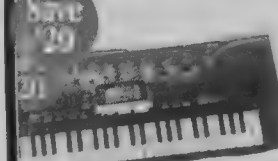
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Midget A Storm blow through competition

BILL HUTSON

Special to the Echo

The Midget A Storm expected a winter blizzard on the way to Parry Sound late in November but luckily the weather held and the game took place. With a short bench due to sickness, injury and work, the ever-dependable Justin Abbs was called into service from the AE team. This game started out in the usual way being slow in the first period and picking up through the second and third period. The final score of this game was Storm 6 Shamrocks 3. Joe Sisson with 2 goals, Joel Cooper with 2, Jesse Johnson 1, and Kolt Smith with 1.

Joel Cooper said he would have had the hat trick if it weren't for the "washroom visit."

Four days later a late road trip to the Manvers arena for a game with the Mustangs turned out to be a game with Oshawa as two teams from out of town showed to play. Manvers showed some class and let the two out of town teams play an exhibition event so they could scout out our weaknesses. None showed this night however, as the Storm short benched again leveled the terrain with a 12 to 2 win.

Good team scoring all around as Matt Robert, Kolt Smith, Jesse Johnson, Joe Sisson, Jeremy Miscio and Phil Greer all tallied for the Storm.

The last November game was a rematch with Fenelon Falls on November 26th. Once again Justin Abbs from the AE team comes to the rescue to fill in a vacant spot due to injury. Andy Dawson as well joined the team for this match and provided an excellent effort taking over from Jeremy Moynes late in the second period. Once again a breeze of a game with a 12 to 4 win over the Flyers. With nine different players scoring it proved again a well-rounded team. Highlighted this game are Joel Cooper, 4 goals, Joel Johnson two goals and an assist, Matt Roberts with two goals and two assists and Adam Hutson with 1 goal and 4 assists.

A layoff of games early December left the boys concentrating on high school programs. This learning opportunity proved not to be beneficial to Joel Cooper as a minor bump in a Red Hawks game left him out of the lineup with a dislocated shoulder. Team doctors indicate he should be back next week. This didn't seem to bother

the Storm lads as Beaverton; yes, those pesky Blades came to Haliburton for the first meeting with the Storm. The Blades, on a 3 game winning streak, only managed 1 goal, not enough to match the Storm's 12. This was an aggressive contest with the game sheet full of penalties, however, no injuries and no players lost to suspensions. Due to injury, and previous suspensions needing to be served, the AE team was called on again to fill some holes. Fitting right into the lineup were Andy Dawson, Justin Abbs, Mark Fisher, Sean Keaney and Jono Sharpley. These players are no strangers to one another as they played together last year or are on the school team together. Jeremy Miscio led with 3 goals and 3 assists, Jono Sharpley, Justin Abbs and Kolt Smith each put two in the net, singles and assists to Sean Keaney, Jesse Johnson, Phil Greer, Lance Aggett, Dave Petch and Evan Kernohan.

With five games left in the regular season the chase is on for 1st place overall. The final game is against the OPS Flames and first place may be at stake. In their last meeting the Storm won 3-2. Expect this game to be another good one.



DARREN LUM/Echo

Rising to the occasion: HHSS junior Michelle Neumann spikes the ball in tournament action at HHSS last week. The Red Hawks split three and lost one match. They competed against Fenelon Falls, LCVI, St. Thomas Aquinas, and I.E. Weldon. See complete story in *The Times*.

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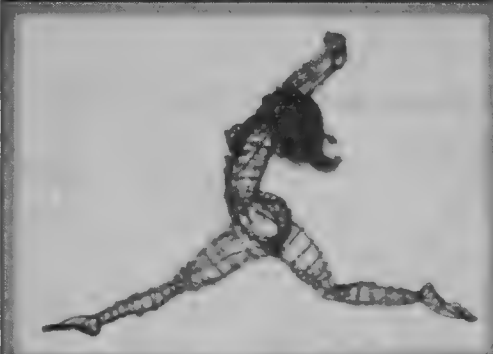
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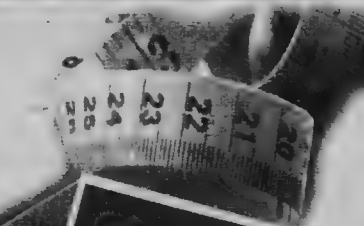
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Can this Bird ever sing!

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

THE BIRD is about to sing. Wren Blair has seen a lot in his hockey career and he's now prepared to tell all. *The Bird: The Life and Times of Hockey Legend Wren Blair* is about to fly off the book stores' shelves.

And along with all the stories about how he signed 14-year-old Bobby Orr, helped lead the Whitby Dunlops to the World Amateur Hockey Championship against Russia, and bought the Pittsburgh Penguins when West Guilford's Ron Stackhouse was on the team, he'll also have a few tales to tell about how he and Ron Gregory started Haliburton Hockey Haven and the risks they took building PineStone from the ground up.

You can also hear a few of these stories when Blair arrives at Under Cover Books this Saturday afternoon to autograph copies of his new book.

As a descendent of the family which gave Blairhampton its name, Blair's roots in the Highlands run deep. In 1918, Alvin Blair of Blairhampton married Audrey Cook of Maple Lake. They were living in Donald when their first child, Merle, was born in 1920, but by the time Wren came along in 1925, they had moved to Lindsay to take over a dairy route as their road to prosperity. (Their third child, Lyle, was born about five years later, and five years after that Gerald came along. As Wren quips, "we were all born about five years apart. I don't know what my dad was doing between them.")

Selling milk was hard work. "My parents would get up at 4 a.m. to collect milk from the farmers, bottle and pasteurize it downstairs in the basement and then personally deliver it," Blair remembers. "It was a back breaking thing for both of them."

Eventually, the Blairs sold their route and Alvin started working for Beatons in Oshawa, where the family established its base.

On the last day of school every year, Alvin would finish his route at about



one in the afternoon and then have to get in his car for another long drive - taking Wren to the Allsaw bridge to spend the summers with Wren's grandparents, Joseph and Edith Blair. Young Wren wouldn't even give his dad a good night's sleep. The minute school was out, Wren made his escape to Haliburton.

"I stayed there until Labour Day," he said in a telephone interview with *The Echo*. Despite his parents' suggestions that he come home to visit them every once in a while in the summer, Wren wouldn't budge.

"My childhood with Grandma and Grandpa was really great. I was also close to my cousins - Berneice (Stewart), Ruby (Cooper), Joe Jr., Glen and Beryl (Moon). They were just up the hill.

"We swam every day - we never took our bathing suits off. We'd swim right across Soyers Lake. Oh, I have some great memories of Haliburton."

In the winters, Wren loved hockey as much as he loved summers in Haliburton. "It's the greatest game in the world," he says. "I was raised in College Hill in Oshawa and if you didn't play

hockey you might as well get out of the neighbourhood."

Like other boys his age, he had dreams of becoming a professional player, dreams which took him to the Junior B, as well as an army hockey team. But his skills didn't match the dream to propel him into Junior A and beyond.

But just as every movie needs a director and a producer, Blair figured that every hockey team needs coaches and managers. If he couldn't be a star on ice,

See **Resort** page 18

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Resort opening a proud moment in the county's history

from page 17

he could still sparkle in the stands.

His first team was the Brooklyn Lions, who played in the Canadian Order of Foresters League, and it was in 1958 when he was with the Whitby Dunlops that he scored his first coup, beating the Soviet Union in the world championships.

That precipitated a move to the Oshawa Generals, when his career really took off.

"In 1962 I brought the Oshawa Generals back to Oshawa [after the old arena had burnt down] and signed Bobby Orr. It didn't take a genius to know he'd be a star. He could go from a standing stop to full acceleration in three strides and once he got rolling, no one could stop him. Did anyone think a defence-man would be the scoring championship? That's what he did later with the Bruins."

His job with the Generals also brought him into contact with Gregory, who was the manager of the Toronto Marlboroughs, and the two formed a friendship that would have a huge impact on his life. Even though they were rivals on the ice - Gregory was manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs when Blair was the manager of the Minnesota North Stars - their friendship remained strong once the game was over. "He's the greatest," Blair says.

Blair and Gregory established Haliburton Youth Development,

Wren Blair

The president and one of three owners of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and their chief operating officer, Wren Blair is the president of One 2 One Corporation, the creator of PineStone Inn. Born in Lindsay, Ontario, Mr. Blair was the general manager of the Minnesota North Stars for eight seasons, and operated hockey clubs in Whitby, Oshawa and King



WREN BLAIR
president

ston among others including the famous Whitby Dunlops, one time world champions.

He and Jim Gregory, the vice-president of One 2 One, began the Haliburton Hockey Haven in 1965. This is a complete boys' camp with emphasis on hockey instruc-

with the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1960. He has now been the general manager of the Leafs for five years.



JIM GREGORY
vice-president

In about 1961, Mr. Gregory first came to Haliburton with Mr. Blair and began to make plans with him to open the Haliburton Hockey Haven, which started in 1965. That was when Mr. Gregory first fell in love with the area. He and his wife and family of three girls and one boy have been summer residents of Haliburton for 11 or 12 years, and now plan to build a home here.

For eight or nine years before the opening of the PineStone, Mr. Gregory and Mr. Blair talked about the inn and golf course. The results of their initiative and interest in the area are

conferences and seminars would be invaluable. He also owned property adjoining that of Mr. Blair and Mr. Gregory, who owned what used to be the LeBoutillier farm, purchased by the two in the 1960's. The property combined supplied the land that was needed for the golf course and the Inn itself.



ART WARD
innkeeper

Mr. Ward held a part time teaching assignment at Sir Sanford Fleming College. It was there that he made contact with Brett Zufelt, who is the Assistant manager of the PineStone Inn under Mr. Ward.

Mr. Zufelt was a graduate of the College's Tourism and Transportation course in 1975 and was in Mr. Ward's

When the PineStone opened in 1976, The Echo printed a special eight-page supplement celebrating the arrival of the county's largest resort.

which built Haliburton Hockey Haven on Koshlong Lake (and now part of YMCA Wanakita.)

"I always loved the area and when we built Hockey Haven, we bought every bit of the equipment in Haliburton. I felt I wanted to do something for the community. We put a lot of money into Haliburton."

Blair and Gregory used their NHL contacts to bring some of the best players to Haliburton to teach at the arena every summer, including Orr and Bobbie Parent.

In a land-buying frame of mind, the two also bought the LeBoutillier farm on the north shore of Lake Kashagawigamog. After divvying up the shoreline into cottage lots - including seven cottages for the NHLers to stay in during their sojourn at Hockey Haven and a large stone "cottage" for the Blairs - the two men decided to walk up the hill and see what else the property could be used for.

"It was beautiful," Blair says of

the view. That would be land for a subdivision. Then Gregory suggested they see what was at the back of the hill.

"We were climbing on rocks and Jim was cursing and swearing and we finally came to an open meadow. I said 'Jim, do you know we own this little lake?' He was picking burrs out of his hair and said 'Who gives a damn?'"

Blair did. As he told his skeptical friend, "We could build a golf course in the jungle we just walked through."

And so the idea for Haliburton County's largest resort was born. The delivery, however, had as many prickles and problems as the climb up the hill.

"We had nothing but major problems," says Blair, financing being only one of them. "I wanted a pool in front but we had to sink piles down 50 to 60 feet and the only place you could find them was

See **How** page 19

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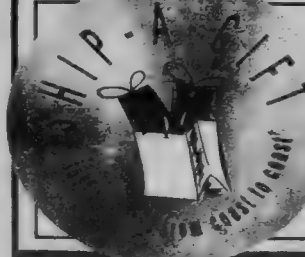
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How can he choose just one highlight?

from page 18

North Bay. I fought like hell to do it."

The resort's first manager was their partner, Art Ward, who owned the neighbouring land (and was for many years the owner/innkeeper of Wigamog Inn.)

They opened the resort with great fanfare in 1976 and Blair says the first 17 years were the best, and also a time of growth.

"We were told we would never make money until we reached 100 rooms. We got up to 106. But then the recession hit big time in 1990. The bank called me and said the principals had to put in another \$1-million. If we didn't go for it, they'd call off our line of credit. I called a meeting. Everyone was nervous and scared. We all loved PineStone but I could see daylight at the end of the tunnel. I told them 'We've lost hardly any money yet but if we put in \$1-million, the bank will be back in six months.' I recommended not to do it. It was just hopeless, throwing good money after bad. No matter

how much you are driven by sentiment, you have to let common sense prevail.

"To me it was a tragic day when we had to make that decision. We'd already sold the executive house [Blair's former cottage]. We unloaded every asset we could. But the bank was very kind to us.

"A couple of days later I called the banker back and told him our decision. He asked me if I knew what that meant. I said 'It means the Bank of Montreal owns a hotel now.' But he said 'We don't want another hotel. Let me call you back.'"

A compromise of sorts was reached. The bank decided not to force PineStone into receivership, meaning the resort didn't have to close, but it would put the resort onto the market. It took the bank nine months to sell it.

"The PineStone has never been closed a day since we built it," Blair says with pride. "The hotel managed to stay alive through all the problems when far bigger properties were closing."

PineStone's financial difficulties were

not resolved until a decade had passed and its new owner, businessman Ron Kelly, spent millions of dollars on upgrades to allow PineStone to join the Delta chain.

Today, Blair says, "I still go over to Delta Pinestone and count all the cars in the parking lot [to gauge how the resort is doing.] I have no financial interest but I have a huge emotional interest."

Building the PineStone was only one of the achievements in his life. Asked about his favourite feat, the accomplishment that made him most proud, Blair sounds as if you'd asked him whether he loves his son or daughter more.

Managing the Minnesota North Stars for 10 years may be what he's best known for, but can he call that a highlight?

"In 1958 I took the Whitby Dunlops to Europe and we won the world championships against the Soviet Union. How can you top that?"

"Three years later I signed Bobby Orr. It's pretty hard to top that."

"I brought the Oshawa Generals back to Oshawa and we went on to win the Memorial Cup within four years. How can you top that?"

"My players won two Turner Cups and won two international cups in '75 and '81."

"I've had 13 championship teams so I think I'd be unfair to say that any one thing was the highlight. And don't think I don't know that's a blessing."

Today, Blair is a team consultant for the Sagenaw Spirit in the Ontario Hockey League. Married to a Coboconk girl named Elma since 1945, they have two children, Danny, who's a general manager with Brake Pro, and Jill, who's his administrative assistant. They still come up to Haliburton where of course Blair still has a cottage.

Writing the book was a marvellous excuse to reflect back on his many successes and he's as proud as a newborn's papa. He's looking forward to showing off his baby this Saturday afternoon at Under Cover Books in Haliburton.

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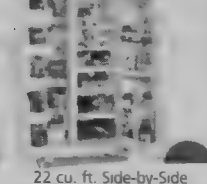
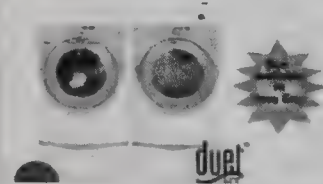
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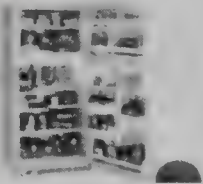
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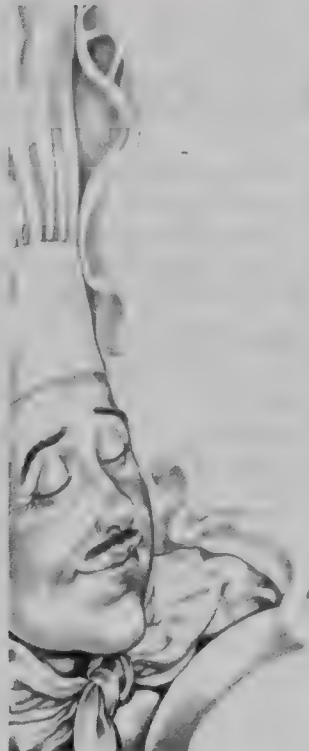


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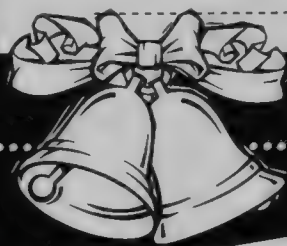
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Highlands East council briefs

Septage disposal problem not likely resolved this winter

KERRY RILEY

Special to The Echo

The following are brief excerpts from discussions held during the December 10 Highlands East council meeting.

Local hauler Fred Meharrie approached council asking for clarification of the municipality's plans regarding winter septic waste holding tanks.

Currently restrictions on spreading septic waste on frozen ground has left many local haulers with no choice but to shut down for the winter.

Reeve Keith Tallman reviewed the situation, noting that council had originally passed a resolution to look into the possibility of supplying carriers with winter holding tanks at the Cardiff lagoon site but had subsequently learned from the Ministry of Environment that this would require an amendment of the site's certification, and that this, in turn, would require a feasibility study.

Environmental Supervisor Glen Covert confirmed that the feasibility study was now complete. He indicated that the amendment of the site's certification was the next step but that the consultants were advising that the municipality delay investing large amounts of money

until the province had made its new standards for septic waste disposal clear.

Covert estimated that it would likely be at least a year before any concrete action could be taken.

Tentative options outlined in the feasibility study included a) providing facilities for direct discharge by haulers into the lagoon – a large and expensive proposal b) the use of holding tanks (either for temporary storage until spring, for waste treatment, or to help control the rate of waste entry into the lagoon) c) the use of landfill cells where waste is essentially dumped and buried (Ministry approval of this option seems uncertain) and d) to leave the problem of winter waste disposal up to the haulers.

Dark Lake road closure

CAO Sharon Stoughton-Craig advised council that the procedure for closing the Dark Lake Road to traffic required a survey and that, upon investigation, it was discovered that the survey information which had been available to them was not registered for the property.

According to solicitor's advice a new survey is required if the closure is to proceed. Costs were estimated at \$4,500. It would be reasonable, she said, to try sending the old survey to the Registry

Office to determine if it could be accepted. If this was not possible, the question of who should pay for the survey (i.e. the township or the residents requesting the closure) would have to be dealt with.

Roads

Roads Superintendent Barry Dunford advised council that his department recognized and was attempting to respond to a need for more weekend snow ploughing, sanding and salting.

The winters are changing, he explained, and milder temperatures create slippery conditions with even a small amount of snow. "You will see us out there more than usual," he said, adding that he hoped council understood that the increased service would be reflected in the department costs.

MNR Information Session

Responding to an invitation from council, Brian Vermeers and George Oram of the Bancroft MNR made themselves available to answer questions and try and sort through a number of concerns regarding waterfront property regulations. Bill Hutson and Gary Clement of the Minden district were also on hand.

Much of the time was spent clarifying specific issues, particularly regarding work permits for docks, retaining walls, and boat launches, etc.

Regarding dock construction, the MNR representatives indicated that only crib-type docks of 16 square metres or more required work permits, and that there were, technically, no restrictions placed on pole or float docks. Any work involving waterfront dredging and filling, they noted, would definitely require a permit.

They explained that the permits were passed on by them for approval to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in Peterborough, and that the landowner was always well advised to consult with the DFO prior to undertaking any project.

Responding to the suggestion that frustrated landowners often decided to simply proceed with the work and worry about permission after the fact, Vermeers

noted that the turnaround time for permit processing had improved significantly (from many months to three to four weeks) since the DFO had added new staff. He added that the statute of limitations (the time after an infraction during which the MNR could decide to investigate and perhaps prosecute) had been increased from six months to two years, making it more likely that complaints and infractions could be dealt with effectively.

Council also asked for clarification of the jurisdiction of its official plan and by-laws, which make protection of waterways a priority. Vermeers said the MNR authority only extends to the seasonal high water mark, and that above that local legislation is the controlling factor.

Auto Flea Market and Car Show

Local entrepreneur Jack Bartholomew approached council to make preliminary enquiries about the possibility of booking the arena, Lloyd Watson Centre, the Curling Club and the fair grounds, for a one-day automotive flea market and car show planned, tentatively, for May 2003.

Classic cars, he said, are attracting a lot of attention and the popularity of this type of event is growing rapidly. There are no other similar events within a 50- to 100-mile radius and a show in Wilberforce would fill an existing void.

Council was unanimous in their support of Bartholomew's plans.

Environment

Failure to get a sufficient fill rate after reaching a depth of 84 feet has forced the abandonment of plans to drill a new well to supply Wilberforce town water.

A report from the Greer Galloway Group assessing effluent criteria at the Bicroft lagoon site, required under a Ministry of the Environment order, indicates that the system is operating well.

Administrivia

The Highlands East municipal offices will be closed from 4:30 pm on Dec. 23 until Jan. 2. The Gooderham Post Office will close Dec. 24 and 31 at 2:00 pm.

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Health for Life gets some heartening news

Renewed funding is pumping new life into a project that encourages local residents to take their health to heart.

The local Health For Life project is one of 37 heart health projects in Ontario receiving a five-year extension in their provincial funding. Ontario Health Minister Tony Clement has committed \$17-million over five years to extend the mandate of the Ontario Heart Health program, which flows funding to Health For Life.

"We're pleased because it shows deci-

sion-makers realize the difference heart health programs are making to improve the lives of residents here and across Ontario," says Tracy Howson, Co-ordinator of Health For Life.

Health For Life had been receiving approximately \$74,000 annually in provincial funding since its inception five years ago. With the \$17-million funding extension, Health For Life's share is not yet known.

Health For Life promotes the importance of maintaining healthy living -

specifically eating well, being active and staying smoke-free - to reduce rates of disease among residents of Northumberland County, Haliburton County and Kawartha Lakes. A major goal is to reduce heart disease, which is the leading cause of death among local residents and which kills 33 Ontarians every day.

Locally, Health For Life was started in 1998 under The Heart Connection banner. The project was renamed last year to reflect its broader focus on reducing not just heart disease, but other types of

"lifestyle" disease such as diabetes, cancer, stroke and osteoporosis.

Community partners do add a lot to the equation. For every dollar Health For Life receives from the provincial government, volunteer time and in-kind donations from community partners add up to more than \$5.

"Provincial funding is what gets us started, but it is our grassroots partners that sustain Health For Life in its drive to make our communities healthier," Howson says.

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At Stuart Baker Elementary School Nancy Bishop's Grade 2 class is all smiles before they feast upon an international banquet on Friday, Dec. 13. The table of goodies was all a part of their month-long social studies education about countries around the world such as Italy, China, Scotland, Mexico, Brazil, Germany, Yugoslavia and Hawaii. Other than food, the students will be learning about culture, dress and traditions.

DARREN LUM/Echo



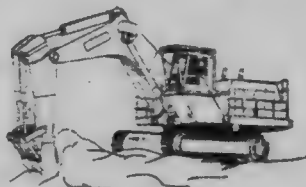
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Let's unite and build a stronger Legion

We have all heard the expression "United We Stand! Divided We Fall!" Canadians and their Allies united in the two World Wars, the Korean Conflict and the World hot spots to take a stand against the enemies of freedom.

When our young men and women became members of the Canadian forces they were assigned to platoons and to barracks. When they went to war they were told to "go over the top" and engage the enemy as a united force. Do you think they objected by saying "I can't work with that person" or "I won't stay in the same building with him (or her)"?

When the Nazi and Fascist powers tried to gain control of a large part of the world, Canadians and their Allies united to say "Enough is enough" and launched an offensive at Juno, Sword, Omaha and Utah Beaches in Normandy. Do you think they said "I won't do that because I don't like the Americans", or "The

British are too bossy" or "Eisenhower thinks he owns the whole damned thing"?

When Legions were formed across Canada they were started by individuals united to create an organization composed of members dedicated to one ideal. That ideal was - service to and for our veterans, our communities and our country.

Our Legion numbers are dwindling. Veterans are passing on. We rely on newer members to pick up the torch and carry on.

Nothing breeds success like success. Let us show our communities what a great, happy and beneficial organization we really are. Robert L. Stephenson wrote "Make the most of the best and the least of the worst". By working together as a united force, we in the Legion can accomplish great things.

We, at Branch 129, will be launching a membership campaign in 2003. New members are vital to our organization. If

you know of people whom you would consider to be good Legion members with something to offer this branch please contact our office at 457-2571 and give us their name(s).

As membership chairman I will contact

them and explain their rights and responsibilities as prospective Legionnaires.

Let's unite and work together to build a stronger Legion.

community news

legion br. 129

Gerald Irish

457-2571

Roman Catholic Community of Haliburton & Area St. Anthony of Padua Church

Eucharistic Celebrations of the Christmas Season 2002/2003

Sat. Dec. 21	7:00pm	4th Sunday of Advent
Sun. Dec 22	8:30am	4th Sunday of Advent
Tues. Dec 24	7:30pm	Carol Sing
	8:00pm	Christmas Eve, Nativity of the Lord
Sat. Dec 28	7:00pm	Holy Family of Nazareth
Sun. Dec 29	8:30am	Holy Family of Nazareth
Tues. Dec 31	5:00pm	New Year's Eve Mary Mother of God
Sat. Jan 4	4:30pm	Epiphany of the Lord
Sun. Jan 5	8:30am	Epiphany of the Lord

*Saturday Mass will be at 4:30pm till May *

Christ is Born for Us
O Come Let Us Worship Him

**Watch
for next
week's
Echo a
day
early!**

At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. It is in this spirit we say Thank You and Best Wishes for the Holidays and a Happy New Year



Gloria & Jim Carnochan, Vera (Granny),
Cindy and Dave Muenzel and family,
and of course our dog Willie

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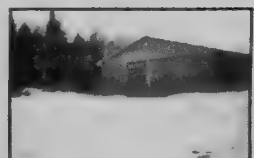
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Mother's story is an inspiration to everyone

With Christmas almost upon us I decided I would share my own Christmas story with you.

About five years ago, we were all sitting around the Christmas dinner table and my mother was telling us about a sore in her mouth that wasn't healing. We all urged her to get to the doctor as soon as she returned home.

My mom was diagnosed with cancer of the gums and was quickly scheduled for surgery. The operation was called a Commando Procedure, which took approximately 16 hours.

I can remember those being the most gruelling 16 hours, pacing, wondering and worrying. When the doctor finally came out, he explained that they had to replace her jaw with a steel one and rebuild her gums using the skin from her arms. The plastic surgery alone had taken about six hours.

Mom spent about a month recovering in the hospital and then many months recovering under the ever-watchful eyes of her doctors at home. Mom had wonderful nurses coming in twice a day to change her feeding tubes, bandages and monitor her medications. Meals on

Wheels and Home Help were made available for my stepfather if he needed them. Mom recovered relatively quickly and her positive attitude kept her moving forward.

Another spot appeared in my mother's mouth; this one on her tongue. She was admitted back into the hospital to remove a portion of her tongue. This operation lasted only a few hours. My mom was always joking about hair growing in her mouth as they were using the skin from her arm once again. The doctors couldn't do anything with her tongue, as it is a muscle and can't be replaced. She recovered quickly and her positive attitude kept her moving forward.

A year ago September, Mom found another spot on her tongue. The surgeons had to replace the steel jaw, and remove about 3/4 of her tongue. They warned her that they couldn't guarantee that she would be able to speak or eat when she came through this operation.

I was with her the day she opened her

mouth to try to bark orders. I was never so glad to hear my mother's voice ... it really was amazing. Her doctors were ecstatic. She recovered a little less quickly but her positive attitude kept her moving forward.

In the past few years my mother has had to fight some extraordinary battles, and she has been able to do this with her incredible gift of looking ahead. My mom hasn't let any of this hold her back. The doctors said she probably wouldn't speak but she showed the doctors what determination was. They told her she probably would have to eat through a feeding tube for the rest of her life, but she showed the doctors again what determination could do.

The same two dedicated men have performed all of my mother's surgeries. My mother knows that with these doctors working on her, she is in the best possible hands.

Mom periodically speaks to other people who are having the same types of surgery. People worry about the out-

comes and mom is able to reassure them that there is life after surgery.

My mother's face is now a little disfigured and she isn't able to wear her teeth, but it doesn't stop her from doing anything. She is always out shopping, going to shows at Rama, visiting friends and relatives, gardening, decorating and possibly heading to Acapulco this year.

As Christmas is fast approaching I look back on the past few years. I now know what a remarkable woman my mother is. She is a fighter, she has an amazing sense of humour, nothing appears to get her down, and she is able to accomplish anything she sets her mind on. I hope some day to be just like her.

I know that she must often be scared and afraid of what's around the next corner, but none of us have the ability to see into the future. We all must take each day as it comes and enjoy.

My family has been given a gift of time and I just want my mother to know that time is the best Christmas Gift.

Please remember to give of your time over the Christmas Holidays. It truly is the most precious gift we can give. Merry Christmas to all!

community news

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Haliburton Highlands High School Special Education Department
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Food for Kids Program sincerely thanks the leadership of Rosie Kadwell, Registered Dietitian from the HKPR Health Unit and Dr. Fay Martin, Executive Director of Family Services of Haliburton County.
If you would like to support the Food for Kids Program, you can send donations to Family Services of Haliburton County Food for Kids Program, Box 1306, Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0.
All donations of \$10.00 and up will receive a tax receipt.

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- * by mailing your order with cheque or VISA number & expiry to Highlands Summer Festival Box 938, Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
- * or purchase your season ticket in person at Cranberry Cottage in Haliburton and The Storeroom in Minden.

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www.highlandsummerfestival.on.ca



Check out this week's
Season's Greetings Supplement,
included with the Echo!





Santa is serenaded by Doug Burtch, above, at Home Support Services' Christmas lunch at the Haliburton Legion while Elsie Lewis gets a laugh from the crowd.



MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

P.O. Box 389, Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0
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"The Heart of the Highlands"

**NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING
TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION
TO PURCHASE THE SHORELINE ROAD ALLOWANCE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL**

DATE: Monday January 13th, 2003
TIME: any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has by resolution declared the following parcels of land to be surplus. These parcels of land are parts of original shoreline road allowances, located in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton.

- Applicant:** Harcourt Park (Lease: McEnaney)
Location:
 - Allen Lake.
 - In front of Lot 3, Concession 7, Township of Harcourt.
 - Defined as Part 1 on a preliminary plan of survey, prepared by Paul Wilson, OLS, and dated March 30th, 2002, available for review in the Planning Department.
- Applicant:** Stewart
Location:
 - Haliburton Lake.
 - In front of Lot 13, Concession 3, Township of Harburn.
 - Dignan Drive.
 - Defined as Parts 1 and 2 on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by H. Curry Bishop, OLS and dated September 19th, 2002, available for review in the Planning Department.
- Applicant:** Williams
Location:
 - Grass Lake.
 - In front of Lot 10, Concession 8, Township of Dysart.
 - Peninsula Drive.
 - Defined as Parts 1 and 2 on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by T. A. Bunker, OLS and dated September 2nd, 2002, available for review in the Planning Department.
- Applicant:** Spittle
Location:
 - Redstone Lake.
 - In front of Lot 28, Concession 10, Township of Guilford.
 - Defined as Parts 1 and 2 on a preliminary plan of survey prepared by Paul Wilson, OLS and dated August 5th, 2002, available for review in the Planning Department.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portions of shoreline road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (9:00 am. to 5:00 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 21st day of November, 2002.

Patricia E. Martin
M.C.I.P., R.P.P.
Township Planner

NOTICES • NOTICES

NOTICE

Township of Algonquin Highlands
The regular scheduled council meeting to be held Thursday, January 2, 2003 has been cancelled.

The next regular meeting will be held
Thursday, January 16, 2003.

Gerald C. Bain
CAO / Clerk Treasurer
Township of Algonquin Highlands



**Corporation of
the Township of
Algonquin Highlands**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: HICKS ET AL
Lots 8 & 9 Concession 2, Boshkung Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has by resolution declared parts of an original shore road allowance lying in front of Lots 8 & 9 Concession 2, Boshkung Lake, in the geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) those parts of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lots 8 & 9 Concession 2, Stanhope Township described as follows:

FIRSTLY: All and Singular those certain parcels or tracts of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope in the County of Haliburton and being composed of parts of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lots 8 & 9 Concession 2, Boshkung Lake, more particularly described as Parts 1, 2 & 3 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-7403.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, North Shore Road, on the 16th day of January, 2003 at the hour of 11:00 a.m., and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard.

Dates: November 25, 2002

Gerald C. Bain, C.A.O.
Township of Algonquin Highlands
RR #2
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Highlands East shows Christmas spirit at annual Loop Children's Christmas Party in Wilberforce

VALERIE SMITH

Special to the Echo

The sights and sounds of the holiday season are coming alive throughout our community with holiday lights, seasonal songs and Christmas wish lists.

For children, the holidays can be especially magical and to help them dream of sugar plum fairies the communities of Highland Grove, Harcourt, Wilberforce and Tory Hill combined together to present the Loop Children's Christmas Party on Sunday.

By noon on December 15th the stage at the Lloyd Watson Centre was all set for the arrival of that jolly, old fellow Santa Claus. But where was Santa? Evidently Santa had been putting the finishing touches to his suit and smoothing out his white beard when an emergency call came through to the fire hall. Quick as a wink, flash of lights and sirens sounding, his ride pulled out of the fire hall en route to an emergency call.

A little late, but Santa being Santa, was soon parading his way with little tin horns and little toy drums with rooey-too-toots and rummy tum-tums all through Wilberforce Town.

He entered the Lloyd Watson Centre to the sounds of Here Comes Santa Claus led by Dolores Packard, accompanied by Andy Hillo, Dan Coghlan, Lyle Coghlan and 350 children, moms, dads and grandparents.

The room was filled with a special magical spirit. Soon pretty little girls in party dresses, sleeping babies, rambunctious little boys were lining up to sit upon Santa's knee and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Photographer Tammy Donaldson captured smiles laughter and tears on film in order for each child to have a cherished picture of Christmas with Santa 2002.

Upon leaving the stage Santa's Elves presented each child with a gift.

Eager little hands tore at the gaily-

wrapped gifts and out spilled toys to excite and fulfill children's fantasies. Delicately-crafted and beautifully dressed, collectible porcelain dolls; dramatic, talking Gurtz dolls; superstar Barbie Dolls; Star Wars Starfighter Kits; imaginative fun Caillou Dolls; super hero Spider men; Teletubbies; cuddly Teddie Bears; musical keyboards; sing-a-long guitars; die cast metal trucks and trailers; easy writers; and walking robots put big smiles on many little faces.

Firefighters were also on hand with pop and bags of candy which they had prepared for each child and Santa's elves gave out masses of stuffed animals which had been donated to the firefighters. Following getting their gifts the children were invited to the arena for skating. Thank you to the Municipality of Highlands East for the donation of the hall and arena.

I know granddaughter Rachel had a great time and from what I could see so did many other little ones.

I found it to be a wondrous event and as chairperson for the Santa Fund I would like to thank all the people who made this event possible once again this year.

First and foremost, a big, big thank you to all the many businesses throughout The Loop who so generously donated toward the purchase of the gifts. With your support and unselfish generosity many lives of our local children were enriched. A big thank you to Santa Claus who was just great. I owe a big thank you to my daughter Dawn and grand daughter Rachel who help me select the masses of great gifts. When purchasing the gifts I felt Rachel overloaded the shopping cart with her favorite choice - Teletubbies. But there were a lot of young children at the party who really enjoyed their Teletubbie gifts. Thank you to the all the elves that wrapped the presents - Dolly Ragnar, Orval and Marian Donaldson, Mel Smith, Joanne Hughey and Roberta Walsh. Thank you to Mac and Nancy Gadway of



Schwandt Homecare Building Centre Harcourt who donated the colourful wrapping paper. A big thank you to Cathy Rogers and her Pathfinder Elves Billie Rose Clarkson, Jessica Foulds and Bianca Scuric who worked in the snack bar, to Path Finders Hollie Traviss, Rebecca Bekkema, Nikole Watson, Lana Cole, Melissa Bryan, Kristin Nicholson who helped Mel and I distribute the gifts and to Pathfinder Kasey Lewis who worked on tickets. A big bouquet of thanks to Dolores Packard who recruited Andy Hillo, Lyle Coghlan and Dan Coghlan to sing and play for us. You all did a super job! A big thanks to Loop Christmas Fund Treasurer and friend Roberta Walsh for all your help, guidance and support. A huge thank you to Tammy Donaldson for using your talent and taking all those pictures for the children and families to treasure. A big hand of applause to Lynn Waugh for organizing the parade and to the Wilberforce Volunteer Fire Department for your tremendous part in this venture. A big thank you to husband Mel for whipping together a set of stairs for the stage on the morning of the party.

These people have given so much. Giving from the heart is a special part of what Christmas is all about. What a wonderful way to get into the holiday spirit!

Getting ready for this Christmas Party this year has been awesome for me once again. What greater gift could one ask for

than being surrounded by happy, smiling children!

Pictures taken at the party will be available for pick up on December 18th at the Wilberforce ESSO station.

We were very sorry Mrs. Flowers and Her Magic Guitar were unable to make it to the party. We extend a speedy recovery to her.

A special wish for a successful operation and speedy recovery goes out to Bernice Wagg. Our thoughts and best wishes are with you. Get well soon!

New Year's Eve is fast approaching. Don't forget Timber Tom and the Cross Cuts will be at the Harcourt Community Centre to welcome in the New Year. The Year 2003 marks Harcourt's 100th Birthday Day.

Advance tickets \$30 per couple or \$15 single. Tickets at the door will cost \$35 per couple or \$18 single. A full buffet

luncheon will be served at 11 p.m. and everyone will receive party hats and favours. Get your tickets early. Call Ross Covert 448 3196.

May all parents and grandparents enjoy your priceless children and grandchildren. Cherished memories, precious moments and love for one and another - these are what the Christmas spirit is all about.

I wish you joy, peace, happiness and love in your homes this holiday season and always.

Wilberforce community: Christmas glow on the streets and in the hearts

It's all about Christmas isn't it. The pretty lights on trees, on houses and on yard ornaments brightening up the December nights. Wreaths on doors, the chèche set up, special services and gatherings, gift exchanges and concerts. All these are happening in Wilberforce so it must be about Christmas.

Doors open in welcome to friends and supporters at the Outpost Historic House last Thursday. Heritage Guild members were pleased to join in the afternoon of pleasant conversation and traditional refreshments. Among the stories shared was Joan (Earle) Noble's telling of a trip she and Ken along with Pat and Lee Clarke took to Britain last summer. Always interested in ancestors, they visited the area where Joan's grandmother Louisa (Sanders) Earle grew up. After some trudging about a wet cemetery they were delighted to be welcomed to a church gathering and were helped wonderfully to reconnect with cousins. A special part of a special trip. Thanks for sharing this story, Joan.

In the evening the Pathfinders with leaders Mary Barker and Kathy Rogers and the Guides with leaders Cindy Ablett and Gail Alden brought joy and liveliness to this historic site. Through their presentations we learned the story

of the little drummer boy, the legend of the Christmas spider, of the special droppings by Santa's reindeer and where the true spirit of Christmas lives. Voices were raised in Christmas songs and carols beside the spruce tree and under cedar boughs. Refreshments included hot apple cider and tasty snacks.

Dinners and parties recently had included the Monmouth Seniors 3rd Annual Christmas dinner at the Lloyd Watson Centre. The Legion Ladies Auxiliary enjoyed dinner and gift exchange at Bolger's of Martinwood.

A special opportunity to enjoy a turkey dinner on Christmas Day is being provided by Susan (Rivers) Ellison her family and the All Star Restaurants. For only \$6.00 for seniors and \$10.00 for other adults dinner will be available between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the 25th. This is a wonderful effort and much appreciated by people alone or those whose family celebrations may have taken place earlier. A fine opportunity to be among other people on this very special day.

Though churches individually celebrate Christmas in their own ways, one of the special times is when they join together. And this happens at the Community Carol Service. Held annually at the United Church most other church-

es take part. The Anglican Church hosted it this year on Sunday December 15. Readers were Wayne Rutter (Full Gospel), Myrtle Weldmark and Rev. Robert Weight (United Church), Sandy Hall and Rev. Christopher Greaves (Anglican), Theresa Burroughs (Catholic) and Ken Jones (Essonville Historic Church Committee). The gentlemen of Song were in great voice with Hosanna, Still, Still, Still and I Saw Three Ships.

The Community Choir presented several pieces including "Gabriel's Message" and my favourite "Ding Dong Merrily on High". Caroline Dahlke's solo of "O Holy Night", accompanied by herself on guitar, has become a highlight of this annual community service. The congregation happily took the floor singing many carol's very heartily indeed. Special thanks to Elsie Lewis for arranging the service directing the Community Choir and accompanying the singing. Everyone went home on snowy roads with joyful hearts and bodies refreshed with good food.

Members of St. Margaret's Church gathered a little early on Sunday December 15, for coffee before service with the Rev. Maggie Milne and her husband Jim. This was Maggie's last service as Part Time Parish Associate in the Haliburton Parish. The Rev. Milne has been associated with St. Margaret's for some time. She came as a great preacher and occasional organist even before

being ordained and spending time in the Coral Harbour Parish in the Arctic. She has served at St. Margaret's on the third Sunday of the month and once a month at the 8 a.m. service at St. George's. She organized and led the Pastoral Visiting groups at both churches. On behalf of St. Margaret's layreader Carolyn Beard expressed appreciation to Rev. Milne for her leadership and presented her with a gift of thanks. The congregation wish her well as she takes a break and seeks new directions in her life in the church.

The Carol Services at the Essonville Historic Church is at 7 p.m. on Sunday December 29. Don't miss it. See you there!

Christmas Eve Mass is at 4:30 p.m. at St. John Vianney in Highland Grove.

Christmas Day at 10 a.m. join in the service at St. Margaret's Wilberforce.

Thanks to many helpers Santa Claus came to the children of Wilberforce on Sunday afternoon December 15, 2002. Riding on the firetruck accompanied by walkers and floats of colorful characters he was welcomed by many children and their families at the Lloyd Watson Centre. Gifts were given to the younger children and they had pictures taken with Santa. Who to thank? So many help with this great afternoon for the kids. Thanks to all. And a very Merry Christmas to them and to all who read this column throughout the year.

community news

wilberforce

Hilda Clark

448-2018



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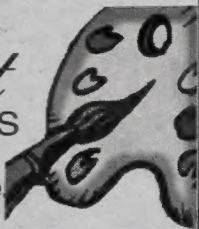
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guarantee. See www.aei.net/~narconon. 1-877-
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VOLUNTEERS

CASA LOMA is seeking volunteers to train as
docents and/or help with special events during the
year. If interested, please contact Trudy at Casa
Loma 416-923-1171 ext. 215 or email opera-
tions@casaloma.org.

PAY TELEPHONE SERVICES

CANADA'S TOP PSYCHICS...Are You Ready to
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PERSONALS

If you have an alcohol or drug problem, informa-
tion about treatment services is available. Dial toll-
free 1-800-565-8603. Drug and Alcohol Registry
of Treatment (DART) www.dart.on.ca

If you think you have a gambling problem, call for
information about services that can help. Dial toll-
free 1-888-230-3505. Ontario Problem Gambling
Helpline (OPGH) www.opgh.on.ca

DIVORCE SURVIVAL STRATEGIES...Before
spending large sums on legal fees, call THE FAM-
ILY LAW CENTRE to understand your rights &
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options & offer smart & proven strategies to help
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defend your child custody & access rights. Don't
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300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS Michael
Brodhagen Jr. On the successful
completion of your Management and
Control of Quality Course at Georgian
College.

300 ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS Far
and Near, Merry Christmas and a
happy New Year. From Carrie Drys-
dale.

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CA

390 PUBLIC NOTICES

PLEASE BE ADVISED as of Decem-
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**YOU CAN USE
VISA OR
MASTERCARD
TO PURCHASE
AN AD**

Deadline: Ads to appear in Tuesday's paper must be in before 5 p.m. the preceeding Friday. Call 457-1037 or Fax 457-3275

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FAYE VIOLET McDONAGH deceased.

All creditors and others having claims against the Estate of FAYE VIOLET McDONAGH, late of the township of Dysart, in the County of Haliburton, who died on the 29th day of October, 2002, are required to file the particulars of such claims with the undersigned solicitors for the said Estate on or before the 31st day of January, 2003.

AND take notice that after the last day named, the assets of the said Estate, will be distributed among the persons hereto entitled having regard only to the claims of which the Estate Trustee/Executrix for the Estate being Mabel Everall, shall have notice.

DATED at Haliburton, Ontario this 9th day of December, 2002 by BISHOP AND ROGERS, Barristers and Solicitors, P.O. Box 472, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0. Solicitors for the Estate Trustee of the Estate of Faye Violet McDonagh.

CA

NOTICE TO CREDITORS AND OTHERS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE ETHEL LACRISHA MITCHELL

All creditors and others having claims against the Estate of ETHEL LACRISHA MITCHELL, late, of the Township of Cardiff, in the county of Haliburton, who died on or about the 9th day of November, 2002, are required to file the particulars of such claim with the undersigned solicitor for the said Estate on or before the 31st day of December, 2002.

AND TAKE NOTICE that after the last day named, the assets of the said Estate will be distributed amongst the persons entitled hereto by the Executor/Administrator of the Estate, having regard only to the claims of which the solicitor below shall have notice. DATED at Haliburton, Ontario this 3rd day of December, 2002. RAYMOND G. SELBIE, Barrister, Solicitor, P.O. Box 186, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0.

CA

420 PERSONALS

Are you a female earth angel?
I am looking for a relationship!
Further details are at my
website:
<http://hello.to/haliburton>

440 THANK YOU

MARJORIE HANNAH JANE WATT - The family of Marjorie Watt would like to thank the Nursing Staff of Hyland Crest for their loving care and understanding who gave their time and energies, to those who provided dietary, housekeeping activities, hair-dressing which made her feel so good. To the Office Staff for their guidance and favours such as passing e-mails or notes for Mom from her family, grandchildren and friends. For all the cards, letters, prayers of moral support from friends and family. To those who visited. To volunteers who made mom's stay so enjoyable, to musicians, for their music which brought back wonderful memories of nights at the farm, with Uncle Art, Uncle Wes and Aunt Polly. To Dr. Roos for his continuing care, to Campbells for their beautiful flower arrangements and to Barry and Kirsten Cray of Monks Funeral Home. For everyone's help and understanding in our time of need. A special thanks to the Minden Hospital Ladies Auxiliary for the luncheon provided after the funeral. We would also like to thank the Pastoral Services, especially Rev. Dan Millard for his exceptional service for our mother. God Bless - Nora, Stanley, Brenda, Bill, Sheila and Bradley.

440 THANK YOU

WOW - WHAT A SURPRISE! Thank you seems so inadequate, but thank you so much, especially to Mary & John, Brett, and Terry & Bart, for the special parts you played in gathering such a diverse group of individuals together, especially at this time of the year, to celebrate my 50th. Thanks to Bolgers, for the warm welcome, and great food. Thank you to everyone who sent lovely gifts, valued cards, for the beautiful cake, and most of all, for your treasured presence, both that night, and in my life! To be able to look around a room and see so many of the people who mean so much to you, is very moving. To know they have made time in their busy lives on a snowy night, with some travelling great distances, is very humbling. Sharon and Barry, your bouquet of daisies was so touching! To you all, "I love you until the rivers run still ..." May God bless each one, Janet.

CA

450 IN MEMORIAM

CRAFTCHICK, BOBBY - In loving memory of our son: Bobby (The Rig) Craftchick.

In a quiet country graveyard,
Where gentle breezes blow,
Lies the one we love so dearly,
Whom we lost five years ago,
Your resting place we visit,
Place flowers there with care,
But no one knows the heartache,
As we turn and leave you there.
You were taken from us suddenly,
But you love forever in our hearts
Until we meet again.

Lovingly remembered, and deeply missed by **Mom, Dad, sister Cathy and husband Peter, brother Rick and wife Tracy, Little brothers, Ronnie and Jamie and his niece Cheyenne, nephews Petey and Owen.**

HICKS (ORVILLE AND MAY) - Remembering Mom and Grandma Dec. 21, 2000. Dad and Grandpa March 1, 1973.

Time goes on with many changes
Joys and sorrows, smiles and tears
But your memory never leaves
With the passing of the years.

Ruth, Murray, Dwain, Arlene, Jim and Families.

JOHNSON, EDITH - In loving memory of a very special mom and grandma who passed away December 25, 1994.

This day is remembered and quietly kept
No words are needed, we shall never forget
For those we love, don't go away.
They walk beside us every day.

Forever in our hearts, **Vicky, Rob, Justin and Alyssa.**

460 OBITUARIES

AT REST CORA HEWITT

Passed away peacefully at the Shepherd Lodge, Toronto on Monday, December 9, 2002

At the age of 93.

Beloved wife of the late John J. Hewitt. Dear mother of Eleanor Addison and her husband Frank, the late Lewis Hewitt (Jean), Don Kenwell and his wife Flora. Loving grandmother of many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Dear sister Bertha Carpenter, Marion Jones, and Ethel Cowan. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Friends were invited to visit the family at St. Paul's Anglican Church, Minden on Friday, December 13, 2002 from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the Funeral Service at 1:00 p.m. Spring Interment at St. Stephen's Cemetery, Boshkung. Memorial donations to the Shepherd Lodge would be appreciated by the family and be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden.

CA

460 OBITUARIES

AT REST MARILYN (nee Barry) COWAN

Passed away at home with her family by her side on Wed., December 11, 2002

In her 70th year.

Beloved wife of Russell Cowan. Dear mother of Kim and her husband Paul Wilson of Haliburton, Chris and his wife Kim Cowan of Haliburton. Loving grandmother of Lauren, Adam, Jeffrey, Hilary, Brady and Paige. Dear sister of Lola (the late William) Sims, Bernice (Percy) Dunford, Lloyd (Marion) Barry. Fondly remembered by her family and friends. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden, Ontario from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Thursday. Then to the Haliburton United Church for Funeral Service on Friday, December 13, 2002 at 11 a.m. Spring Interment at the Evergreen Cemetery. If you wish to make a donation in Marilyn's memory, they can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF).

CA

AT REST MARJORIE HANNAH JANE WATT

Passed away Peacefully at the Hyland Crest Senior Citizens, Minden on Sunday, December 8, 2002

In her 86th year.

Beloved wife of the late Phumess Watt. Dear mother of Nora (Robert McMinn) of Lethbridge, Alta., Stanley (Phyllis) of Haliburton, Brenda (Tom Henderson) of Haliburton, Sheila (Ed Burke) of Minden, Bradley (Donna) of Kingston and Bill Davis (Freda) of Haliburton (son by choice, brother by family approval). Loving grandmother of fifteen grandchildren, twenty-five great grandchildren and predeceased by her brothers and sisters. Fondly remembered by many nieces and nephews. Friends were invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Main St., Minden, on Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service in the Chapel on Wednesday, December 11, 2002 at 11 a.m. Reception followed in the family centre at the Funeral Home. Spring Interment Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. Memorial donations to the Hyland Crest Resident's Council or to the Kidney Foundation would be appreciated by the family.

CA

MIGHTON, WILLIAM (Resident of Haliburton Ontario) - At Haliburton Hospital on Friday evening, December 6, 2002 in his 88th year. Beloved husband of the late Ruby Statten. Loving father of Joan (Joe Linnell) of Saskatchewan, Marilyn (Bob Davis) and Colleen (Ian Douglas) all of Haliburton. Fondly remembered by his grandchildren Jennifer, Kevin, Michelle, Nancy, Jeremy and Arlen and his great grandchildren Tanner, Trevor and Trey, Jeremy and Haley. Dear brother of Bob of Toronto and Harry (Enid) of Alliston. Predeceased by his sister Eileen and his brother Gordon. Also lovingly remembered by his nieces and nephews. Bill was a veteran of the Second World War. A long member of the Broadview "Y" and a retired employee of the former T. Eaton Co. Friends called at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME, Hwy. #118, Haliburton (705) 457-9209 on Friday evening, Dec. 13, 2002 from 7-9 p.m. Then to St. George's Anglican Church, Mountain St. Haliburton on Saturday morning, December 14, 2002 at 11 o'clock. Interment later St. Peter's Anglican Church Cemetery, Maple Lake. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family. A Legion Service will be held at the Funeral Home on Friday evening, Dec. 13, 2002 at 8 o'clock.

CA

460 OBITUARIES

STEWART, BERNEICE (Resident of Extensicare-Haliburton) - At Extensicare-Haliburton on Thursday afternoon, December 12, 2002 in her 85th year. Beloved wife of the late Cecil Coneybeare and the late Lorne Stewart. Loving mother of Brier Coneybeare of Haliburton and Dawn (Tony Colgan) of Toronto. Loving Gram of Bill Colgan (Lori), Amanda Colgan and Wendy Dixon, Great grandma of Ashley Colgan. Dear sister of Beryl Moon and Glen Blair of Haliburton. Predeceased by her daughter Renee Dixon, her son Blake Coneybeare and sister Ruby Cooper

Continued and Joseph Blair. Friends called at the HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME, Hwy. #118, Haliburton Ont. (705) 457-9209 on Friday evening, December 13, 2002 from 7-9 p.m. Then to Haliburton United Church, Haliburton, Ont. on Saturday afternoon, December 14, 2002 from 2 o'clock until time of Funeral Service at 3 o'clock. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton United Church Building Fund would be appreciated by the family.

CA

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CLASSIFIEDS
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Friday at 5 p.m.
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Phone us at
457-1037**

community calendar

What's happening in the Highlands

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- **Climax Climbing Club** - every Tuesday evening at Camp Medeba in West Guilford. 6:30 - 8 p.m. for Parents and Children under 13 years, and 6:30 - 9:30 for teens and adults. Drop-in indoor rock climbing. For more information contact Greg Shantz at Family Services 457-5345.
- **Every Monday: 9:30 - 12:00. Ongoing free ESL** (English as a second language) classes and tutoring. Call Haliburton Highlands Learning Program at 457-3430. Ask for Jane.
- **Volunteers needed for local mediation service.** Help foster conflict resolution in your community. Free training is provided for all volunteer mediators. For more detailed information, please call 457-3499 extension 608.
- **Ontario Breast Screening Program** - for women 50 years and over, screening on Thursdays and Fridays by appointment only at Ross Memorial Hospital. No doctor referral needed. Call (705) 328-6175.
- **Adult Badminton:** now until May 2003 - Archie Stouffer Public School. Monday 7:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. For more info call Lois 286-1765.
- **Hand Drumming Instruction** with Terry Cowen, Thursdays 6:30 - 8:30 at YWCA. A drum is not necessary. For info call Erin at 754-4618. Everyone is welcome.
- **Scottish Country Dancers** meet at J.D. Hodgson School, Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. Beginners and singles welcome. Phone 286-1218 or 447-2509 for more information.
- **Weight!! TOPS - Take Off Pounds Sensibly** will help you lose those excess pounds. TOPS is a non-profit, affordable weight loss organization promoting "Sensible eating and peer support." For local chapter information please call Lynn (705) 696-3582. What do you have to lose!!
- **Now to May 31, 2003:** Are you an early riser who likes to have a morning constitutional - but hates walking outside in the snow and cold? The Heart and Stroke Foundation welcomes you to join them on morning walks through the halls at Archie Stouffer Elementary School from 7:30 to 8:15 and at the Haliburton Highland Secondary school in Haliburton from 7:15 to 8:15. It's free. For more information call Morris Duff at 286-6079 or Al Gostock at 457-3362 or Jacqueline and Kelly Metcalfe at 457-3756. Be wise - exercise!
- **Dec. 17: The Haliburton Highlands Prostate Cancer Support Group** will NOT be meeting tonight. We wish all a merry Xmas and a happy holiday season. Our next meeting is Jan. 21/03 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge - Hyland Crest Senior Citizen's Home. For info, please contact Rick Ratcliff at 286-6699.
- **Dec. 19: Alzheimer Society Support Groups.** We are holding informal support meetings. You are welcome to attend. Bring your concerns. We will bring the refreshments. You are not alone. Minden, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. at Hyland Crest Meeting Classroom. Please contact Janet Bottum, Support Services Co-ordinator, at the Alzheimer Office in Haliburton at 457-8335. Adult children, family and friends of persons with Alzheimer Disease or related dementias are welcome to attend. This is an opportunity to share information and exchange coping

Events listings are provided **FREE** for non-profit groups on a space-available basis. While we endeavour to accommodate requests for publication, we cannot guarantee that all requests for listings will appear. Requests should be faxed to The Echo at 457-3275, emailed to editorial@haliburtonecho.on.ca, or brought in to the office. **Please submit events by the Thursday prior to the requested publication date.**

NOTE: This calendar is not a comprehensive listing of all events taking place in the area. Please check the classified pages, display advertising and articles appearing elsewhere in the Echo for more information on events and in the Highlands.

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HALIBURTON

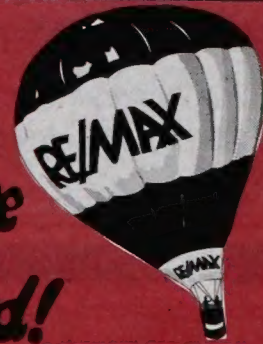
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Above
the
Crowd!



HOMES and COTTAGES



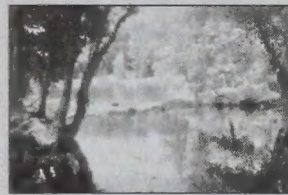
TIS THE SEASON

Great hunting camp retreat on crown land lease overlooking a large marsh. 800 sq ft bldg, inc woodstoves, bunk beds & more. \$40,000 Call Ken Barry



LONG LAKE ROAD

Cozy winterized cottage with deeded access to Long Lake. 3 bedrooms, 3 pc bath, kitchen/dining rm combo, nice sized living rm, septic, dr. well. Adjacent cottage for sale. \$54,900. Call Linda Baumgartner or Troy Austen



DARE TO DREAM & RELAX!

Nature lover's getaway at affordable \$\$ Come & see for yourself. River frontage, islands, forest, cabin, at the end of a short road off county Rd #1. \$68,500 Call Rosalind Bagg



EAGLE LAKE VILLAGE

Newly renovated in town home. Close to store, church and lake. Ideal retirement or first time home buyer. \$97,600 Call Linda Beachli or Peter Brady



MISKWABI LAKE

Well maintained 3 bedroom home. w/o kitchen to sun porch and deck, cozy living rm with wood stove, unfinished basement. Garage, deeded access to lake. A must see at \$99,900. Call Ted Vasey



MINDEN CHARMER

3 bedroom home with a full finished basement and attached garage on a level landscaped lot just minutes from town. Call now. \$109,900. Call Rick Lowes



CUSTOM BUILT HOME

Well constructed on acreage. Full bsmt, partially finished, oak eat-in kitchen & sep dining room, double car garage built 2001, guest cabin & bunkie. Great for home business. \$118,900. Call Erwin Roithmeier



SIR SAM'S RD EAGLE LAKE

Square timber charmer on Sir Sam's rd. 3 bdrm + 2 bath, MF laundry. Walkout basement-rec rm. Lots of windows, pine, fabulous view 7 mos of yr. 2 mins to ski or public beach. \$129,000. Call Rosalind Bagg



MILES OF BOATING

Located at the mouth of Gull River at Gull Lake. Neat & clean 3 bedroom, 4 season cottage, finished in pine. A pleasure to show. \$129,900 Call Rick Lowes



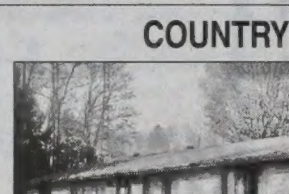
5 BEDROOM FARMHOUSE

37.5 acres near Minden. Open concept living room, dining room & kitchen, w/o basement, fireplace in living rm, property backs onto crown land. School bus at the front door. \$139,900. Call Erwin Roithmeier



GRASS LAKE HALIBURTON

3 bdrm, 3 season cottage on a 5 lake chain. Open concept kitchen/Living room/Dining room. Lg front deck, level lot, sandy shoreline, west facing. \$157,900 Call Ken Barry



COUNTRY SETTING

Private, treed 6.8 acre property, minutes from Minden. 3 bedroom brick bungalow, full w/o basement. Bright open concept, fireplace, new 2 car det garage, main flr laundry, sep dining rm, and much, much more! \$178,500. Call Bill Kulas



ALMOST NEW

Waterfront cottage/home will be completed before closing. Terraced lot with 140' frontage & expansive view. Pine interior. \$310,700. Call Cathy Lancia



MISKWABI LAKE

Year round home on Miskwabi Lake, 4 bdrms, 3 bathrooms, with finished basement and attached garage, 2400 sq ft. \$319,900. Call Linda Beachli or Peter Brady



KENNISIS LAKE GEM!

1800 sq ft of living space w/ 4 bdrms, 2 baths, vaulted ceiling in LR w/ FP, breathtaking view, sand beach & loads more! Turn key! \$349,900. Call Vince Duchene

BED & BREAKFAST



Haliburton custom built home w cathedral ceilings, brick FP, formal DR, eat-in kitchen, mst w/ensuite & w/o to deck, screened SR, sauna, full fin. bsmt & dbl att garage. Walking distance of town/ski trails, access to 5 lake chain. \$395,000. Call Julie Gray



ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS

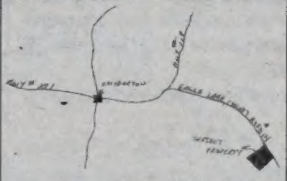
Newly constructed home on Lake Kashagawigamog. Open concept, many upgrades, main bath plus ensuite. Tastefully decorated and very private on 1.75 acres. S/E exposure, sand beach big lake view and well treed. Also insulated boathouse/workshop. \$439,000. Call Tom & Gail Tempest

COMMERCIAL

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY



Commercially zoned, 9900 sq ft bldg in prime location @ Hwy 35 & Main St. Great visibility, town water and sewers. Paved parking. VTB avail OAC \$500,000. Call Melanie Vigrass



EAGLE LAKE

Ideal residential properties overlooking Eagle Lake on year round road. Access to lake across the road. \$39,900. Call Linda Beachli or Peter Brady



AFFORDABLE COMMERCIAL

Location suiting many applications. Office, retail, warehousing space. Living quarters could be built on second floor. Haliburton Lake. \$88,500. Call Rosalind Bagg

COMMERCIAL



GREEN LAKE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY
Former variety store & restaurant, 1000 sq ft business area plus 300 sq ft kitchen, 2nd floor has 3 apartments, FAO heating, garage, sand beach access & boat launch. \$139,900. Call Ted Vasey

VACANT LOTS

BUILDING LOT INGOLDSBY AREA

1 acre wooded
Driveway
\$7,900

Call Norman Harrison
Associate Broker

WALKERS LINE

Level to sloping building lot. Ideal for full walk out basement. 180ft frontage on year round township maintained road.

\$11,500

Call Fred Gardner

BOBCAYGEON ROAD - 1km north of Queen's line
Many building sites, 10.3 ac \$14,900

COUNTY ROAD #7 - Redstone Lake Dam Rd

Building site cleared, road in, 5.5 acres \$19,900

BEAR LAKE ROAD- 1km north of Glamour Lk Rd, Con 10
Drilled well, septic, trailer, 8.2 ac \$49,700

Call Fred Chapple

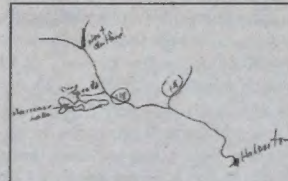
SHARON LAKE WATERFRONT

290ft+
No motor lake, 4 season, 3 acres, wooded, driveway
\$31,500

Call Norman Harrison
Associate Broker

BUILDING LOTS HALIBURTON VILLAGE

\$19,000 Haliburton Lakeview str-walk to amenities
\$21,000 Prestigious subdivision, close to amenities
\$21,900 Hal Drag River, scenic riverfront lot
Call Linda Baumgartner & Troy Austen



HURRICANE LAKE

Point lot facing south. Year round road. 450' rocky shoreline ideal for year round home. Don't miss this one. \$75,000. Call Linda Beachli or Peter Brady

WREN LAKE

Over 500 ft of pristine shoreline on a beautiful clear lake that has great fishing, swimming and boating.

Listed at
\$89,900

Call Fred Gardner

WELL TREED

Level lot on peaceful and private Pelaw lake. Fully serviced with driveway and septic in place. Boating access to both Little and Big Redstone lakes, two of the premier lakes in Haliburton County. Western exposure, rock and sandy shoreline with a pretty view

\$199,000

Call Cathy Lancia